

THE
IMPETUOUS LOVER,
OR THE
GUILTELESS PARRICIDE.
SHEWING,

To what lengths Love may run; and
the extreme Folly of forming Schemes
for Futurity:

Written under the Instructions, and at the
Request of one of the interested Parties.

BY
A. G. Esq;

VOL. II.

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THE



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C H A P I.

A report that Mr Charles kept Iris's Cause of childrens lying. Project to send Mr Charles to Naples. Iris laments it. He cheers her. Scheme how to behave ther. Settle preliminaries. Mrs E—d—c—b and Iris remove.

WHILST they were making provision for a distant settlement for

Iris and her aunt ; an event fell out, that rendered it more absolutely necessary than ever, and at length compelled them to it, whither they would or not.

W—lls growing better of his wounds and bruises ; since his return home, had given out, that his cousin *B—t—t* was kept, under the eye of her aunt *E-d-c-b*, by young Mr *C—d—t*, as a mistress ; and no wonder then, that she accepted not of a match, that she could never hope to equal again whilst she lived. Now he founded his story upon Mr *Charles's* appearing to take her out of his friend *M—f—n*'s hands, at *D-n-c-t-r* ; where, tho' Mr *Charles* had not seen him, he had Mr *Charles*, undoubtedly.

This, as most matters of detraction readily do, soon spread from hand to hand, till being in almost every one's mouth, it reached at length to old Mr *C—d—t*'s ear ; nay, now the report was become so current, there wanted not those, who by way of confirmation, gave out, that they had frequently seen him go in and out there ; and this was also in due time carried to his father.

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The old gentleman upon this, called his son to an account for the behaviour, that had brought such a scandal upon his family ; demanding to know the truth.

The lyes that children are most heavily condemned for, are for the most part caused by the parent ; who taking upon himself to carve, more peremptorily, for the child, than he can bear, and threatening the severest punishment for crimes, only by himself called so ; but neither clashing with divine laws, or moral honesty ; obliges the child to falsify wherever the question is put home to him, in order to avoid the chastisement he has no hope but to expect, for the truth.

Shew me first the parent that makes no wrong step, and that man may possibly expect none from his off-spring, when he arrives to those years that himself avoids them in ; for till then, he has little grounds to hope he will make none ; taking it for granted that no such person exists, it is one of the most fallacious arguments in nature, that my child must never be guilty of what I please to dislike, because I, who am his parent, forbid it ;

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therefore, the fact being once committed, what has the child to do, in order to se-cret it from such a parent, but to deny the truth, to preserve his credit; and thereby, instead of one crime, to become guilty of another.

This case was now that of Mr *Charles*, whose father taxing him with the keep-ing *Iris*, as a mistress; he could not but confess, he said, that he liked her person, and had often visited her. Have you ever bedded with her? said his father. O! never he replyed. Are you married to her? No, upon his word, he said. Nor ever intend it, I hope, said his father; nor any woman in the world, without your approval, said Mr *Charles*. Looke! *Charles*, said his father, if you make an whore of her, so be it; that may be re-pair'd; but marry her at your peril, I say; for the very moment you do so, you cease to be my child.

Dame *E—d—c—b* and her neice were now such sufferers also in their characters, that to shew the world they depended not upon the smiles of Mr *Charles*, they gave out that they designed to leave

M—d—n,

M—d—n, and to settle somewhere in *Yorkshire*; but still their journey being delayed, and old *C—d—t* having again heard that his son still visited her) lest the old woman should be two many for his son, and draw him into a marriage with the girl) he determined to send him over sea, to a friend he had at *Naples*, a merchant there, to be taken into his house. As for whether he made any gain by it, he cared not; so that he could but keep him from the inveiglements of this old woman and her neice.

Upon the first proposal that he made of this to Mr *Charles*, the whole project had well nigh dropped, from the readiness wherewith he accepted it: for now, his father began to think he had been imposed upon, by the rumour of his son's being so fond of *Iris*; and he, for sometime said no more of it; till one of his spies informing him, that on such a night, he saw Mr *Charles* come out of my dame's after dark; this revived it again, and preparations were now made for his voyage in earnest. He had some months before wrote over to his friend, for his approbation.

approbation of such a thing (if it should happen) and was answered, to send him when he pleased.

Mr *Charles*, seeming to mention his voyage to his *Iris*, more pleasurable than was agreeable to her, she took it as the most unkind behaviour in him, that he had ever shewn to her, she said; for that what would become of her in his absence? she should be in a state of widow-hood; and the poor little infant she then went with, would be brought into the world without a father. He would find some lady abroad, more suitable to his father's taste than herself, and at his return she should become abandoned. O! happy would it be for her, in case he did go, that both mother and child should perish in her labour; for that she must linger on in an extremity of wretchedness without him, should she survive it.

Instead of the whimpering that such a speech from *Iris* would at any other time have occasioned, he now passed it off with a smile, telling her, that he proposed the issue of this voyage, for the strongest cement of their happiness and mutual

mutual enjoyment, that could be; nor would he have it go off again for the world: for as it was impossible for them to have that intercourse together, without which he could never be happy in the station they were then in; so, when when once he was abroad, if she would but follow him, he doubted not their living in much more felicity there, than they possibly could, whilst he was under his father's eye, and subject to the perpetual hazard of being deprived by him, of all future attainments, from the whisper of every busy tongue.

My dame said, that few young men would have been so considerate; but commended him up to the very skies for it: for that she judged it to be the best step to be taken in their favour.

Mr *Charles* then laid his scheme more open to her; for he said, that when he should be fixed there, she should take lodgings near him; and pass for an *English* lady, come into those parts for her health; and that at first sight of her, he would give out, that she was an intimate acquaintance of his; by which means,

the

the frequency of his visits to her, would not be suspected for those of an husband, but a friend; in order to the transacting such little matters as she might have to do there.

The further *Iris* was let into the design, the more she admired it; till at length, she became no less fond of it than her *Charly* himself; but when would he be going? she said: for that she now grew so near her time, as not to be capable of such a voyage till she should be up again. This was more than her husband could say, his time depending on his father's will so intirely, as wholly to swallow up his own; though be it sooner or later, he said, it was much at one, she should hear from him so soon as he got over, and also know how to direct to him; but he entreated her to answer his letters as soon as possible after the receipt of them.

They agreed that Mrs *E-d-c-b* should not remove to her new habitation till the time for Mr *Charles*'s departure should be fixed, and then, the sooner the better, they said, that she might not be thought

thought to move just upon his leaving them. Having thus adjusted all preliminaries, and *Iris* being now perfectly come into them, he left them to their further reflections; my dame having first took a sharp look all about her dwelling, to see that no one might be privy to his departure.

The father and son, began now to talk most familiarly together upon this Voyage to *Italy*; and Mr *Charles* seeming so allacrouslly to embrace it, his father put the question, how he that had always been bred at home, and scarce ever exceeded in his travels the smoke of his own chimney, should be willing to undertake a sea voyage, so far from his own country?

Mr *Charles* replied, that though the knowledge of other manors and customs, besides those of his own country, and the sight of new nations and people, were things very eligible to most assuming genious's; yet there was a motive which prevailed with him, beyond all others, which was that of getting ~~money~~, which he might call his own: for that most proud he should be, to be master of a purse

purse of his own, daily encreasing ; but one thing, he said, he should be glad his father would comply with ; which was, to set him out handsomly at first, with a sufficiency in his pockets, to guard against all manner of accidents ; that he might not be looked upon as a mere apprentice boy, in a foreign land, where the plenty he should appear with, would alone demand him respect.

The old gentleman (whose avarice had not employed his whole care so absolutely as to exclude pride from the passions he abounded with) could not but commend his son's inclination, for appearing as somebody, abroad ; and therefore, assured him, that whilst he remained careful and sedulous in his employment, he should want for nothing ; but withal, charging him to be a good husband, protested, that if he found him to turn out an idle and vain young fellow, he should withdraw his benevolence from him, and leave him to sink or swim by himself : for that what he had obtained through frugality, and by laying in wait for advantages, should never (by his good will) be

be consumed upon rioting and debauchery.

Mr C—d—t assured his son, that he would present him with five hundred pounds at his departure; besides which, that he would fit him out with apparel of all sorts, suitable: and now the time limited for his leaving the country, for *London*, (where he was to reside for a short time, to look into accounts, under a proper preceptor, before he set forwards on his voyage) was appointed, and concluded upon.

He took his leave of his *Iris*, but in the manner another fond husband would; at which scene it would have been criminal to have dropt no tears; but here, he even exceeded most others; nor could such a separation have been supportable to him, had it not been (as he hoped) but a prelude to a less interrupted series of familiarities and intercourse between them; and it was from the constant lectures that he had read to his *Iris* upon this head, that he had reduced her to a tolerable opinion of it.

He had agreed to leave her two of the
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five hundred pounds he was to receive from his father, for the expences of her lying in, and of her voyage to him, when she should be up again, and for the keeping of such child as she should be delivered of, till he should be able to settle a correspondence with Mrs *E—d—c—b*, which he knew not how to effect, till he should be arrived at his Journey's end.

He then also hoped, he said, to be able ro recommend to her some master of a vessel, that she might come over to him with. He assured her, she should hear from him, from *London*; and intreated her to be punctual in her answers to him, and to supply him with the means of directing to her, at her new abode, early enough to prevent the miscarriage of his letters, lest they should fall into his father's hands.

Whilst the husband and wife had been upon these topicks, my dame had been reflecting on consequences; and at length, declared her sentiments; that as Mr *Charles* would stay, for some time in *London*, she judged it would be most advisable for them to remove, as soon as might be after his

his departure; and that he should send his *Iris* but one letter, and that, so soon as he was fixed in town, and no more, till he should hear from her, how to direct to her; nor should he direct that letter himself, or at least in his usual hand; for, that *W——lls* being post-master, should he see the letter for *Iris*, in any degree similiar to Mr *Charles's* writing, it would doubtless be stopt by him, and if not carried to his father, at least, put to other use than it was intended for.

This, all bearing a face of probability, it was agreed, that the letter should be directed to my dame herself, and not to her neice, when the hand-writing would not be so narrowly pried into.

My dame had an old acquaintance and quondam fellow-servant, about eleven miles off, whether-to she purposed to retreat with her neice, and to have her lye-in there; but she was not so positive how far she might be accommodated there, as to be certain, till she had been over to enquire for her herself; and this she vowed she would do the next day, but would not take *Iris* with her, till she should be better

better informed at her return, how acceptable such an affair would be to her friend.

My dame found her friend a widow, with one daughter and two sons, grown, and in the farming way, at a very good old house, which was the better adapted to her purpose, as it was near no market, or indeed within less than a mile of neighbours, saving a few little hovels, chiefly occupied by the dependants on her business.

Having discoursed the housewife about boarding her and her neice, whose husband she said, belonged to the sea ; the good woman came readily into it, and a price being demanded and submitted to, closed in few words, that her neice and she might come whenever they pleased, and should be welcome.

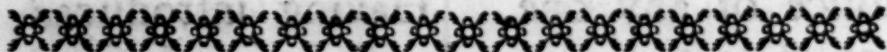
Mrs E—d—c—b acquainted her with her neice's condition, and asked, whether in case of her neice's crying out there, able help was to be had ; and if she could help her to a good nurse and midwife ; the good wife being able to provide her as she said, assured also, that in case of danger,

danger, there was an able surgeon within call, who made midwifry great part of his practice; whereupon, Mrs E-d-c-b thinking she had made a beneficial day's work of it, returned. They then hired privately, a little covered cart, without notice of who, or what it was to carry; and early, a few mornings after, packed some of the lightest of her goods into it, and then stepping under the roof with her neice, they arrived at their new abode before noon, without the knowledge or notice of any one. Having introduced her neice to her new landlady, and tarryed dinner with her, my dame returned by the same conveyance, and at one more journey the next day, cleared her house of all that remained in it.

She ordered the carter before her, but to stop at an house she appointed to meet him at; then walking to the esquire's to deliver him the key, and thank him for the use of his house so long; she told him, she was about settling herself far in the country amongst her own relations, and intended to send her neice to service there. In this manner flunk away both

my

my dame and *Iris*, so privately, that not a soul in the neighbourhood (save Mr *Charles*) either knew when she went, or whither-to she was gone; or any more of the matter, than what she herself had before given out, that she intended soon for her own country, to fix herself in some way amongst her own kindred, and to look out for some sober service amongst the gentry there, wherein she might place her neice *B—t—t*.



C H A P. II.

Iris's thoughts of her Charly. Caution against self-created trouble. Mr Charles's letter to Iris from London. Further caution. Iris to her husband. Mr Charles to Iris.

THough Mr *Charles* staid at his father's near a month after his *Iris* was settled at her new lodgings; yet never could he once find an opportunity of a spare

spare hour or two to visit her in, which occasioned her believing him to be gone for *London*; when, what could be the meaning of her receiving no letter from him in all that time, it almost distracted her to invent.

She told her aunt, with weeping eyes, that she feared her *Charly* was weary of her, and would turn out like all other husbands, never better pleased than with their wives at such a distance, as that they might not scrutinize too narrowly into their behaviour. Men, she was certain, she said, must covet a latitude in their carriage, inconsistant with their wives regard for them; and truly, she was of opinion, that the voyage her *Charly* had amused her so with, was only to make her the easier under his journey to *London*; where (now finding himself at liberty amongst the whole sex) he had forgotten the very subsistance of such a she, as his poor wife in the country.

Iris would have been far more prolix (it is probable) upon a head so copious of matter, had not her aunt called her to order, by declaring, that if she continu-

ed to be perpetually pestering her brains thus, with whimsies of her own creation, she would not endure them, but return home again and leave her to herself. Pray, who are you ? child ! said she, to be endued with the gift of prophecy, in a more especial degree than your neighbours ? dont you know, that if this house falls, we all stand a chance to be knocked on the head : but does one of us all, live under the terror of what may probably never happen ? your *Charly*, in your absence, may, its possible, fall into bad company ; but, can he not be absent but he must do so ? or must you believe so, whether ever he does so or no ? *London* is a sad place you say ; well, what of that ? are none, but persons as sad as the place, there ? But, what if he is not at *London* all this while ? what if he is at *M—d—n* yet ? are they all sad people there too ? because he dont send you a letter from *London*, where, himself may have never been yet ? nay, more probable, if (as we suppose) the fear of you, first gave rise to the thoughts of his going abroad, than that you having deserted him, his father's mind

mind might be changed, and with the cause, the effect may cease also; so that, after all, its more than probable he will never go abroad.

Iris could not be beat out of her tenets by all that her aunt could say to her ; for she insisted, that if he was at *London*, he ought to have wrote her word of it, the first thing he did there ; or that if he was not gone thither, he ought to have seen her before this time ; nor was it possible to divert her way of thinking, till she received from him the following letter.

Mr Charles C—d—t,

To Mrs Lucinda B—t—t.

My Dearest Iris,

You may justly esteem it a paradox, that my affection is so lively, as that I enjoy myself far more pleasurabley upon my removal to upwards of an hundred miles from you, than I could when distant but half a score; but my appetite then for visiting you, being daily dissap-

pointed, by a fresh round of visiting or visitants, taking, or to take leave before my setting out for this place, made my life irksome to me, for want of your society; which now, the impossibility of attaining, by reason of its difficulty, renders supportable to me.

I arrived in this immense metropolis but yesterday afternoon. I am in a new world; neither know, or am known to any one. I speak because I am spoken to; but ask few questions, lest I should be laughed at. Could you imagine, my dear, that the Londoners and I, though we talk the same language, should so pronounce it, as if we had been taught from different alphabets? nay, whatever sentence of six words I utter, it is ten to one, but half of them, are imitated by him I hold my discourse with; which, by his aiming to speak like me, should, (one would imagine) make me proud of my dialect; but it is only to shew me, how paltry my tones sound, from another mouth, I am satisfyed; which makes me so uneasy, that if I could learn to converse without speaking, I should be heartily glad of it.

I am

I am to have a master to-morrow, who is to perfect me in a whiff, in my accounts. I fear I shall be a little awkward at first going to school again. I hope you will go safely on with your time, and shall be glad to know your reckoning, that I may fancy to myself, when abouts it will be; but let me know, wherever I may be, if you have notice of it, so soon as ever it is over, and what we have got; and tell Mrs E—d—c—b, I trust all to her management.

My dear Lucy, what would I give to see you, and how you are situated? but, as that cannot be, I comfort myself upon hereafter: for so soon as ever I am oversea, I shall expect you after me; where, no busy eyes or whispering tongues, will interpose, to our mutual felicity, and that permanent too.

I am to see a little of the town to-morrow, and go upon 'change (as they call it, and when I write next, you shall know how that is.)

*Well! my dear Iris, I shall say more
in my next; so can but wish you and my
aunt, both as well as my own heart, and
conclude myself,*

Your dearly loving husband,

C—C-d-t.

*I dont direct by your own
name, because you may
not be known for my wife.*

No sooner arrived this letter, than *Iris's* mourning was turned into joy; not a syllable of neglect was ever more heard of; nor had *Iris* a thought in her brains, but of answering it; and how she should perform that in the most pleasing manner to her beloved *Charly*.

Her aunt had now a fit opportunity for tutoring her, upon her impatience at not hearing sooner from her husband; assuring her, that it had never been her own way, to anticipate sorrows. She would exert her skill in prevention of evils, she said, but never distress herself upon frivolous surmises; for if once fancy was

was to take the lead of judgment, the passions being thereby tuned in a jarring key, would soon overset all the good harmony of life, and render their indulger, a field of confusion.

Iris could not but agree, she said, that had she contented herself with waiting a little longer, all would have turned out to her wish, as it had now done; but the uncertainty she was under, for want of an account of him, from himself, she said, was tormenting. How could she have ever imagined, she said, that his visiting backwards and forwards, should have consumed so much time, without leaving her a few hours of it? but all being now over, she should think no more of it.

I cannot think all to be over so lightly as you imagine, neice, said her aunt; for it is the want of a thorough acquaintance with one's own folly, that make one plunge into it the second and third time, and so on; wherefore, let me persuade you, that the very first thing you do, to consider what a fool you have already been, and determine with yourself against

it for the future ; and ever to wait the event of things, before you cast away your tears and your health, upon what may never happen to you ; but come, let us answer Mr Charles's letter : and now a correspondence is opened between you by writing, make that as effectual and equal agreeable to you, as the sight of each other ; till, - in a course of time, it may happen. This, child ! added she, common prudence requires of you, since the contrary can no ways benefit you.

Mrs Lucinda C—d—t.

To Mr Charles C—d—t.

My dear, dear love,

*B*efore I received your letter, I thought you had forsaken me, and had fifty ugly things in my head, that I resolved to have said of you, so soon as I should know where to send them to ; but upon my life (I dont know how it is, for I cannot remember one of them) but woe be to him, for I will chide my dear Charly

Charly, (and that's poz) if ever he serves me so again, and makes me stay a full month and more, without hearing, seeing, or knowing a word what his become of him.

You never told me how you got to London; so hope very well; and my aunt tells me, that by your way of reasoning, I ought to desire less to see you when you are abroad, than I do now; and less now, than when you was at your father's, which I dont understand; for the greater the distance between us, the more passionately must I wish it was less, that I might hang upon the neck of my beloved Charly.

I do wish I could see London with all my heart: for by what I have heard of it, it must be a strange fashioned place, sure enough. Methinks, I long to hear how they speak, and wish you would in your next, send me in writing, and then I would practice it here.

My dear Charly shall know, as soon as I know myself, (almost) whether he has a son or a daughter; but indeed! my dcar, I know not justly when to ex-

pect it ; though it can't be very long first, for I grow so very big, I can scarce get up and down stairs.

I long for my dear to see me, as much as you do ; but because you wont come ; I'll tell you how we go on. We are in a good old house, and it was a great gentleman's seat, but is out of repair, and made a farm house on ; and Mrs S—n—x, is very obliging to my aunt and I, and we have the finest bacon and damasfin pudding by the yard long almost, and such curds and cream, as would do your heart good but to taste of ; my dear, my aunt and I lie together, in a very good bed, and a vast great room ; but my Charly need not be told, I have lain better with him. O ! my dear, there is no comparison to me, whatever you may think of it.

Pray, my ever dear Charly, send me a very very long letter about London, and all that is to be seen there, and tell me how every thing is, and the fashions ; how the great ladies go, and if they wear the what-you-call-thems, the— such as Miss Snare used to come to church in. I hope you will send all the news that ever you can, my dear, for indeed and indeed, without my dear Charly, life lingers on but melancholy, to your poor disconsolate

Iris.
About

About ten days after the above of Mr Charles's, Iris received the following from him,

Mr Charles C—d—t,

To Mrs Lucinda B—t—t,

My dearest Iris,

I Am now set upon a task, that I know neither where to begin upon, or end with. I am all bewildered and in a wood. My brains turns round in confusion : so that whilst I would tell thee one story, another starts before it, and I seem in such a Maze, as not to think intelligible to myself, whilst I blend the circumstances of various subjects together, so as to make scarce head or tail of any of them.

I have been at court, and it was upon a ball night, and went in one of my new laced suits that was made to be taken abroad with me. O good ! you never saw me look so in all your life, my dear ; for the barber was a full hour dressing my

hair, as he called it ; so that there was not a fingle shoot out of order, and it was tied up behind, and done in such a manner, I never saw the like in my life : what vexed me most abominably was, that no sooner did I think (for I sat before a glass all the while) he had exercised his skill to a most masterly degree, than having reduced it to a button behind, he clap'd it all in a bag that he took from his pocket, which would have held my whole head ; so that turn which way ever I would, I could discover no more hair on my head, than about the size of a mully-puff, and as white too, just above each other.

I could have stuck the fellow if I durst, but did go so far with him, as to say, what? do you put my hair in a bag ? when he run on with his answer so swiftly, and made such a number of screwings of his head, and grimaces, that I gave up the cause for lost ; not doubting but he had reason of his fide for what he had done, though I understood not a single syllable of all that he said to me.

I sat it out however, and when he had done,

done, I asked him what I was indebted to him? when, making me abundance of congees, *seul mong fe vo sel ene*, said he (as near as I can pronounce it after him) but I was all in the dark still; nay I had stood a better chance, to my thinking, had he spoke hebrew to me. How we should have parted at last I cannot say, had not Harry, the servant of the house I lodge in, came up from his young master to know whether I was ready. Harry! said I, this gentleman (meaning the barber, for he was dressed almost as gaily as ever you saw one) talks english so far different from me, that we can't understand each other. I want to know what I am to pay him for what he has done, and can't learn his meaning.

Why don't you tell the gentleman? monsieur, said Harry. *Fe vo sel een*, said monsieur. O! sir, said Harry, its a crown he wants of you. A rascal! added Harry, such paltroons as he, shall be pampered with their thirty or forty shillings a day, whilst many an honest man is starving.

I realy took Harry's compliments to be

be rather too blunt, nor had I the least notion, but a boxing match would have ensued presently; but my operator was quite passive, past it by with a smile, and monsieur Harry, said he, *vil ou maitre pren la baulsome pur la fare brillaunt?* (for just so he spoke, I shall never forget him) you're a sad dog, monsieur, said Harry, I suppose a gentleman drest by a plain english valet, would be fit but for a scare-crow.

Having paid my head-dresser, and sent him to my friend, I asked Harry what queer gentleman was? one of those poor wretches sir, said he, that starve upon salads in their own country, till they can hold it no longer; then, coming hither, fatten upon the pillage of our gentry. I had half a notion I vow, that the fellow had been by some impediment prevented from speaking plain; till Harry set me right, by assuring me that he was a frenchman, who having the assurance, to esteem his works more valuable than those of the english, had the good luck to get the gentry of his side too, and picked their pockets with a bon grace.

I only

I only thought him very dear in his labours, and so dismissed Harry.

I long my dear, to shew you the beauties of one of those public nights at court, where you may cover with a casting net, from the dutchess to the shoe-maker's wife, all cheek by joul, without ceremony; and I long'd for a dance with them, for they have just such, neither better nor worse, than I have seen in my father's great hall, of a *Christmass* holy-days.

My dearest *Iris*, you have now heard one of my excursions, as when time serves, you shall another; but believe me, love, I have found infinitely more mutual delight, over your aunt *E—d—c—b*'s peat fire, in the old smoaky chimney at *M—d—n*, sitting upon a cricket with three legs, whilst my *Iris* in my lap, has been playing with the cheeks of her most truly affectionate,

C—C—d—t

CHAP.



C H A P. III.

Iris to Mr Charles upon the taking major Gash for a murder. Mr Charles to Iris upon a play, *The Exchange, Coaches, St. Paul's, and Mayor and Aldermen.*

IRIS was now in so high spirits upon her *Charly's* long letter, as even almost to abate the desire of his company, so that she might be pleased with his written accounts of things, once or twice a week; for she said, they were more instructive in the methods of living, than any book she had ever read; and she told her aunt, she wished but that he might tarry at *London* till she was up again, and let what would be the consequence, she would go see him.

Her aunt assured her, that the readiest way to hear often from Mr *Charles*, was speedily to answer his letters, and as a relation

CHAS

relation of their yesterday's scene, would undoubtedly give him a secret pleasure, from a notion of her further safety, she would advise her not to sit with the letter in her hand, conning it over and over all day, but to send him an answer directly.

Iris took her advice, and wrote the ensuing.

Mrs *Lucinda C—d—t*,

To Mr *Charles C—d—t*,

My dear *Charly*,

THE letters to thy drooping *Iris*, are more reviving than the richest cordials. I live, my dear, whilst I am reading one over and over, for two or three days together, till being thoroughly perfect in every part of it, I flag again, and long for a speedy return of that cheering julip.

How happy are you, my dearest *Charly*, who can range the town at large, without that confinement on your pleasures, that

that accompany every of your country amusements, whilst you was responsible to a cruel father, for every moment of your time, that passed out of his own eye? O! that I could but have been with you at court, on the ball night you speak of: for if they dance but as we do in the country, barring my great belly, a body might have made one with them; for though I don't know that ever you saw me, let me tell you, I have danced Butter'd Peas, Moll Peatly, and Joan's Placquet, many a good time at our landlord's, amongst the tenants, and was thought to do it very prettily too, for a beginner; and I warrant you, I had been called my lady too.

Well! my dear, I see now plainly enough, that one may grow grey in the country, without passing through half the delights of life. Here's the same sort of work every day, from morning till night, over and over till one's weary on't, insomuch, that for the variety of living, one month, introducing all that one is ever to see or know (save by chance) one may be fairly said in that time, to have gained

gained all the knowledge one is ever to expect here ; whereas, *London* (by the little I have heard of it) affords an inquisitive mind, fresh recruits of knowledge for one's life-time.

Pray, my dear *Charly*, tell me every thing you have seen, or that you shall see, or might, (if you would) see : for I shall never rest till I can see that dear place ; and please the piggs ! when you and I take possession of *G——pe-Hall*, we will go and spend a whole winter there. Nay, ——I wish I ever relish a country life afterwards : but do, say all that ever you can about it in your next, which I shall be wild to see ; and if you can say something again about monsieur, whom I already conceive to be the oddest fellow that eye ever beheld, pray do ; for I long to see some more of his language.

I have a piece of news to tell you too, that you may not think we live and see nothing in our country retirement.

You must know, that for the most part, all the news we have, our carters bring us from market, about six or eight miles off : for having not a neighbour to converse

verse with, we open our eats twice ^a week for all that we can catch from them, and no sooner is the je-ho heard by us, and the grating of the waggon wheels in the barn-yard, than down runs aunt and I, for the news of the day, and tire the poor fellows with our questions.

You must know further, that aunt and I, take a walk every fine day in our farm, through which runs a good foot way, where we now and then meet, or are overtaken by passengers; and possibly hold some discourse, and hear how matters stand in the neighbourhood, whilst they chatter about persons whom we never before heard of, nor ever again may.

In this foot-way, having straggled near a mile from home yesterday, as we were going through a gate in our way, we saw at some distance before us, and meeting us, a little army of people; a most unusual sight in our beat; nor were we a little surprized at it. Flight would have stood us in but little stead, being at the distance we were from home; nor had we the least means to avoid them by, in case they were bent upon molesting us;

so that, lest they should suspect us fearing them, and so use us the worse for it, my aunt bad me pluck up my courage, till they were past us.

With this resolution, we moved on, till we came a-breast to each other, when we were drawing from out of the path to give them way; but just then, one of the middlemost of them catching my eye, I verily imagined, it would have been impossible for me to have kept my legs; nor could I any ways have done it, I was so near fainting, had I not caught my aunt by the arm to support myself by; for I plainly saw my dread enemy, major *Gash*; at the first prospect of whom, I judged the surrounding throng to have been persons of his own stamp, and that upon sight of me, they would have carried me off again; but they all passing us, and my fear drawing my eye behind me, to my no small joy, I beheld his arms pinioned behind him with cords, as were one or two more of the company, and this put me in a little heart again.

I told my aunt what I had seen; but he

he being no ways known to her, she had not noticed him ; however, as we saw several straglers at distances, making after the main body, my aunt ventured to stop one of them, whose aspect portended humanity, and asked him the meaning of the great concourse of persons before us. He was not so eager in the pursuit but that he stopped, and we held some conversation with him ; when he told us, that there having been a robbery, and murder committed, at a gentleman's house about seven miles off that day, by four men : somebody who had seen them ride out of the yard, and had taken notice of their habits and horses, having directed the pursuit the same way that they rode off, they had been all surprized at the crown at *L-pt-n*, and were then conducting before a magistrate.

My aunt's curiosity, prompting her to an inquiry after further particulars, she desired to know somewhat of their proceeding in that barbarous act ; to which he reply'd, that the gentleman's family consisting but of himself, a wife, a daughter (at woman's estate) with a man and

and maid-servant. The villains had seen the gentleman go out with his gun and dog, with his servant following: so that he being secured, as they might well imagine for sometime, they rode into the yard, and putting their horses in the stable, one of them knocked at the door, and was let in; when, having secured the maid, he introduced his companions, and they went up stairs, where they found the lady and her daughter, whom they commanded to silence, and were about to have tied the daughter, intending to take her mother with them, to shew where her valuable effects were; but the mother screaming out violently, and running towards the window to cry out, one of them knocked her down, and another stabbed her in several parts of the body, the sight of which, so terrified the young lady, that she swooned away directly, and lay as lifeless. This withdrew all their further attention from her, and sent them to the ransacking the house, which they did, by breaking and destroying several fine cabinets and drawers, and taking from thence a very great sum in money

ney, besides jewels and other valuable things, with which they made off directly.

He said further, that the gentleman at the very first shot that he made, split the flint of his gun all to shivers, when having never another with him, nor being able to repair his loss, he and his man walked home again, where they became evidences of the slaughter and confusion that had been made.

He added, that the gentleman not being so sunk by the calamity, as to omit all prudent steps for revenging himself upon the robbers ; having released the maid, to take care of his daughter, then recovering, (his wife being stone dead) he mounted himself and servant immediately, on two horses then in the stable, and rode out in search of the murderers, being assured they could not be far off, by the time that himself had been absent ; but as he knew not which way to take, he rode up to a man who was digging peat upon the heath at a distance, and from him he learnt, that four men from his house, not above twenty minutes before

before, had rode towards *W—t—s—ne*, and that such and such were their descriptions and horses. Upon this intelligence he said, the gentleman and servant (clapping spurs to their cattle) made after them; and upon inquiry, found them housed at *L—pt—n*, with the very things upon them, that they had taken; nay, he said further, in that upon examining their weapons, the hanger of one of them, (the worst looking fellow he ever saw) was still stained with the blood of the deceased upon it.

We thanked the man for his account, but desired we might detain him no longer; and when he was gone, dear aunt, said I, what an escape had I from these very hands that have murdered this poor lady. It makes me even tremble to think of it; nay, had you not came the very night you did, if I had resisted their will, that wretch would have made no more scruple of plunging his hanger into my body, than that of this poor unhappy lady; but now, says I, I may hope to be secure from them; for they will all be certainly hanged for it.

What

bad I

What is since become of them, or whether M—s—n was amongst them, I can't say; but probably, in my next, I may give you some further account of them; for my aunt and I, hastened home as fast as possible, for fear of meeting any more of them.

I am afraid I have tired you, though I would not willingly think so; for let my dear Charly be assured, that the length of his augments proportionably, the pleasure of his

Ever dutiful and loving wife,

Lucinda C—d—t.

Iris soon received an answer from her Charly, which I have subjoined.

Mr Charles C—d—t,

To Mrs Lucinda B—t—t.

HOW unfortunate am I, my dear, at the interruption of this delightful correspondence between us, which I am now daily in expectation of?

I had

I had notice last night, of the ship I am to sail in being almost loaden, and that the master will sail with the first fair wind. O! that it may ever prove contrary! for now it is come to so near a point, I even tremble at the thought of deserting thee, and could wish it might never happen.

I was highly pleased with your account of the major in bonds; but am grieved for the death that occasioned it. May he meet with his deserts I say, and then you may be free from his further molestation, and if *M—s—n* was involved in his crime, let him too share his punishment.

I am too melancholy upon this notice of my voyage, to comply with your request of stating further occurrences here, as I would; but must not omit to acquaint my *Iris*, that I have been at a play since I wrote last; it was called the *Beggars Opera*, wherein forty people at least acted, as if they had been really the persons they represented.

I dont know what to make of it, but they were all rogues, high-way-men, C 2 whores,

whores, and I cant tell you what; and yet it was vastly pretty; but there was one *Polly*, they called her, who charm'd me so, I could have kiss'd her; and one *Capt. Mackheatb*, he was her lover; and though I never saw him, I could not but think of your major whenever he came in, though by your description of him, the Captain must be the handsomer man.

My dear, I as verily thought they would have hanged him before they had done, as you can, that the major will now come to that fate; but just as a body might have expected it, (a duce take it) there came a repreive; so take care how you are too uppish upon being rid of the major; for there is no certainty till he is throttled, of what will be the end of him.

I went yesterday, with the gentleman's son where I lodge, to see the tower, (as they call it) and tis as full of guns and swords, pistols and carbions, and such a number of things, that I never before saw, as would amaze any body to behold; and what they can do with them, is surprizing; but yet the man told me,

there

there were some thousands more bespoke. In short, my dear, I never knew any thing in my life till I came to *London*; but as we came out, my friend took me through a dark hole into a yard, and there I saw I dont know how many lions all alive, and twenty other things; of which I should never have known more than their names, had not I come hither. But I forgot to tell you I went to the Change, my dear. It is a vast fine place, and there is all the kings and queens that ever were in *England*, there; and it is a charming large, square place; and there you may walk all day long, upon a fine smooth pavement, as dry as a bone, let the weather be what it will; and the clock strikes music, they call them chimes; but we have no such thing in our country.

I verily believe when I was there, there was above a thousand people; and yet my friend told me, it was not half so full as it is sometimes; and he says, there are some of all the nations of the earth there; and that all kinds of languages are spoken there every day; and I believe he said true, by their habits, not at all

like mine many of them ; but what above all offends me in London, is, that you cant speak to be heard, if you want to buy any thing ; or tell what his answered, unless you both bawl loud enough to crack your wind-pipe, for the abominable noise of the coaches, perpetually driving and hurrying, backwards and forwards by hundreds ; and then, for fear they should not make noise enough, the streets are all covered with vast great stones ; so that it is the strangest riding in one of their coaches ; where its ten to one, (if you are not very cautious) but you get a black eye, or such a knock o' the temples, as you may feel for the whole day afterwards, and such squelishes now and then on the body, as will make you remember them.

My love ! there are a world of fine things and sights to be seen, which we are to go through as fast as we can, if I am not hurried away too soon ; but my dear, here is a vast great church, which would hold ours, and all the houses in the town, in the belly on't, and room enough to spare too ; but then it is so high ;

high; bless me! there is no imagining how high it is. I am to go hear some fine singing there next *Sunday*, when a Lord Mayor, and may be forty Aldermen, are to be there in their great gowns, and chains of gold about their fat necks, as I saw them the other day, going to *Guildhall*, my dear; for you never in your days beheld such fine coaches as they all drive about in, though they live but a few doors off; but I am sure, if I was one of them, I should much rather walk it.

My dear, you must answer this as soon as ever you receive it, or I may be gone before it comes, and I would not by any means have it fall into other hands than my own, as one knows not, but I being gone, they may send it to my father.

So wishing you well, and my aunt, I am called to dinner, and am

Your loving husband,

C. C-d-t.



C H A P. IV.

*Iris to Mr Charles. Mr Charles to Iris,
of his departure. Mrs E——d——c——b
to Mr Charles upon his wife's delivery
of a son and daughter. Mr Charles to
Iris. Mr Charles at Naples. His
character and business. His father's
advice to him. Mr Charles to his fa-
ther. Mr Charles to Iris. Iris to Mr
Charles. Mr O. B——n's death. Mr
Charles taken into partnership.*

IRIS having gained the conclusion of the above letter, was so distressed lest she should bear no more from her Charles, Nay, lest if she answered the above, he should possibly be sailed before it reached him, that she over-looked all the other parts of his letter as insignificant, and set herself instantly upon the task of answering it. This she perfected before the going out of the post, in manner as under set down.

Mrs

Mrs Lucinda C—d—t,

To Mr Charles C—d—t.

My dearest Charly,

YOUR letter was so pressing for an answer, that I could read it but one of those five hundred times due to it, before I sat down to write this to you.

Why? my dear you can never be so barbarous as to leave me, without hearing once more from me; nay, as you have an interest in the ship, by your voyage in it; O! make the captain stay but one other return of the post, for goodness sake! or I can never bear it. I thought you would have staid some months in town; and to send me word at the conclusion of one, that you are going, and I can hear no more from you, is but stabbing me to the heart at once; for I can never survive your last letter; but be that as it will, let me hear from you every day whilst you stay in London, and for my sake, dear Charly, make it as long as ever you can.

You desired to hear what became of

major *Gash*; so aunt and I made it our business to inquire, and we find that he, and two of his companions are gone to jail, and if report lies not, they must be hanged next sessions. It seems, one of them as impeached more of the gang, perhaps *M—s—n* or *W—lls*, the latter of whom I should be sorry for, (as a relation, though his behaviour towards me as been so iniquitous. My aunt is for hanging the whole bunch of them; but methinks! I would have neither of these two suffer.

I cannot have time to remark upon your last, as I otherwise would, lest the post should slip me, and then I shall be fearful of writing at all. I wanted to write about the change and the coaches, and the aldermen; for I long to see an aldermen, for we having not one that ever I heard of hereabouts: but fear I must defer all, till I am blessed with a sight of *London*, and who knows when that may be?

My dear, write to me again; do you mind *Charly*? I must have another letter before you sail, and every opportunity you

you have whilst sailing, and I must hear from you, and so the moment you land, send me word of your voyage, and how you do, and where you are then, and every thing as punctual as you know it yourself: for nothing will more contribute to my well being, than a constant account of all his proceedings, from my dear *Charly*, to his ~~ad~~ ^{ad} you I wrote you.

Dutiful and affectionate wife,
L. C—d—t.

The return of the post, brought *Iris* the following.

Mr Charles C—d—t,

To Mrs Lucinda B—t—t.

My dearest Iris,

NO thief at the gallows could ever be more over-joyed at a reprieve from his expected execution, than I, my dearest *Iris*, am, for the liberty of writing

ring to, and hearing from thee for full
five days past, we fall down, the river
when, hand shall fail us the wind permiss;
so that although you may probably hear
from me, yet I must intreat you to write
me no answer to any of mine: after this,
for fear of ill consequences; for as I shall
be on board, though you should direct to
me there, I may be gone before it can
reach me.

I long now I must go, to be at Naples,
for then, there will be some hopes of our
re-uniting again; and assure yourself, that
the first line I write there, shall be to
my Iris, from her

Most affectionate

Charles C—d—t.

The spirits of poor Iris had been un-
der such agitation, upon the speedy de-
parture of her husband, that it was the
opinion of her aunt, it had hurried on
her labour before the time; for she was
in bed, and safely laid, before the arrival
of the last. This obliged Mrs E—d—b
to

to answer it for her, which she executed
in the following manner;

Mrs M. E—d—c—b,

To Mr Charles C—d—t.

Good Mr Charles,

MY Neice received your last in her bed, which she took the day before, and in the following night was delivered of two as fine children, a girl and boy, as ever the sun shone on. I hope she is in as good a way as can be expected, for the time, and desires me to present her's and the little infants duty to you; but would give all the world she says, for to see you before you go. I hope you will satisfy her of the impossibility of that in your next; but could wish you may tarry, till she can have but another letter or two from you; since nothing like those, can elevate her spirits, or alleviate the misfortune of your departure, before you can see her, after so severe a

trial as she has had.

I am sir,

Your most obedt. servant,

M. E—d—c—b.

P. S. She desires to know
how you will have the
children named.
Mr Charles C—d—t,
To Mrs Lucinda B—t—t.
My Dearest Iris,

BY So much the more so now, as thou
haſt two sweet pledges of our loves
in thine own hand, may the heavens bless
and preserve you all! till we may once
more happily meet, and may it then be
our happy fate never to be separated more.

It was with vast pleasure I received Mrs
E—d—c—b's account of your safe de-
livery, before I had sailed; for I should
have had otherwise but a painful voyage
of

of it, upon the reflection of what you must have been suffering at home; but, as I expect to sail every moment, (both every person and thing intended for the voyage being now on board) so I can expect no further account from you till I am safe landed, and have informed you of it; for before this can, in my stead, kiss your hands, I shall have very probably left the river, and be out at sea.

What I would above all things recommend to you is, that having now two children, you will cherish them in my stead, nor perplex yourself with perpetual hankerings after me, whom you can no ways attain to till course of time, I shall send to and receive you; for a contrary course will but impair your health and vigour, that should enable you to cross the seas in quest of

Your most sincerely affectionate Husband, C. C—d—t.

P. S. As to the childrens names, I would have the girl named Iris, act as you please with the Boy.

Mr

Mr Charles gained once more an opportunity of a letter to his Iris from the Nore ; which contained only a repetition of past expressions, and his wishes that he had but her with him, as the sole thing wanting to his felicity. He told her how sea-sick he had been, but was recovered, and was then very hearty, with some other immaterial topicks, which I shall omit the insertion of, and proceed to inform my reader, that after about five weeks sailing, being hindred sometime from entering the Streights by contrary winds, he arrived safe at Naples, and was very handsomely received by Mr O—— B——n, the merchant, to whom he was recommended, and by Mr N—— b——g his partner, who happered at that time to be in great want of an english hand, from the loss of an old servant, who had been in their compting-house for near twenty years, and died but in the summer before his arrival ; and also, for that a young gentleman whom they had taken from England, after tarrying with them near two years, had upon some slight disgust, left them and returned.

ed to England; so that Mr Charles's coming, (proving most acceptable to them) he was received with more ample testimonials of their regard for him; and then, Mr O. B——n, perfectly knowing his father whilst in England, and that he was a man of such considerable fortune, added no little weight to the respect both partners shewed him.

This genteel treatment of their masters, drew after it a peculiar regard for Mr Charles from every other branch of the family, and from thence spreading itself amongst all the dependants upon their house. Mr Charles was in a short time addressed to, with equal deference to the merchants themselves; nor was he behind hand with them in deserving of it: for that having constituted it as his main principle, so to behave there, as that he might miss no advancement in his circumstances, for the sake of what might thereby accrue to his wife, when she should arrive; he neglected nothing, how difficult or disagreeable soever, that might the more ingratiate him to his new masters.

He

He behaved with the utmost good manners, submission and diligence; went and came at their orders; and in short, behaved himself so inculpably, that Mr O—— B——n wrote over to his father, that he had never in his life, met with any young gentleman whatever, who for readiness of apprehension, seduity and dispatch, could equal him: and in short time, he had so gained the length of their feet, that both partners behaved to him rather as a son, or a brother, than a stranger, taken in to transact for them.

This commendation which old Mr C——d——t received from O. B——n, he transmitted to his son by a letter, otherwise highly in his praise; and at the same time assured him, he should want for nothing, whilst he should continue his past behaviour.

He recounted to him the many benefits of a close application to business for some years, whilst both he, as well as himself, should be increasing their stock; which of course (under his prudent conduct) must all center in him at last. He knew not he said, what an interest and influence

influence, such an acquisition of wealth, as they then both had in their power to raise, would give him, not only in his own country, but in the superior posts of the nation, if they should prove his choice, or his childrens after him; for that if himself should live but one twenty years longer, as he feared not to do from his years, and had but his health, he made no doubt of leaving fifteen thousand pounds a year behind him; which with twenty, thirty, or more, thousand pounds of his sons getting abroad, in a like number of years, might intitle him to a peerage, and set him at the helm of affairs; when conjoined to one of the noblest fortunes with a wife that his own county would afford him, at his return; for he of all things advised him not to marry a foreigner; for that at about forty years of age, was time enough for him to think of raising a family, when the giddiness of youth should be over. He again recommended industry to him, as the sole means for thriving, and concluded his loving father.

The above, Mr Charles answered in
the following manner.

Mr Charles C—d—t,

To Mr Edward C—d—t, Esq;

Honoured Sir,

It is with the supremest sense of pleasure, that I perceive by Mr O B—n's letter to you, my best endeavours have been accepted, in the manner they were designed; and I must say, that they have personally answered my purpose, in not only rendering me a favourite in his family, but by giving me such a nearly insight into business, as is seldom un-accompanied with delight; but above all, it is my felicity to see, that my proceedings are most agreeable to you. I heartily wish you long life and prosperity, for your own sake, exclusive of the benefits you propose to me by it; and shall, whilst abroad, omit no endeavour to make no despicable addition to your store.

I had proposed giving you some account of

of this country and its inhabitants; but am called off by business, so must conclude; you repeat and consider the

I daily to your most dutiful son; I now
send him his usual present which is

Charles G—d—t.

The above letter was wrote to his father, at the end of the first six months of his establishment at Naples; but he had before wrote him of his voyage and safe arrival.

He had wrote also to Iris twice, and had received her answers, and within a post or two, from the above of his father's, he sent her the ensuing

Mr Charles C—d—t.

To Mrs Lucinda B—t—t.

My most adored Iris,
MORE now than ever is, from the
privation I at present sustain of
your most pleasing society.

Nothing could have contributed more
to my dejection, than learning from the
last

last my lovely Iris sent me, with what
ancill grace she supports herself, under
our separation, but though thy pain my
love, is intolerable to me; yet, when I
think it is for my sake, and occasioned by
the regard for me, I triumph again at my
own worthiness, for ingrossing thy whole
affection.

My cravings my dear, are no less pun-
gent after thee; but that I cheer myself
under the prospect that a short time will
deliver thee more fearlessly into my long-
ing embraces; for I would be a little bet-
ter known here first, and make myself of
somewhat more consequence, that I may
be the better able to protect thee, in case of
accidents; for this is a most intriguing
country, where, for the slightest offence,
or even a jealousy, or the suspicion of
one, the aggressor receives his punishment
as from fate, none being able to point
out the hand it proceeds from. I am
therefore willing to be somewhat more
knowing than at present, in the manners
of the country, before I involve both thee
and myself, in some mischief, inextri-
cable perhaps; but by our eternal dis-
uniting.

In

In your next, pray send me every particular about my dearest *Charly* and my little *Iris*; how your aunt holds, and all the news you can pick up, not only of our own country, but of *England* in general; also, how your money holds out, that I may contrive some way of supplying you, in a private manner; for let not my *Iris* labour under any unnecessary want, for herself or the children, that I can supply: but above all things, let me intreat my love, not to think the delay tedious, till I send for thee over to me; since that I am labouring all that I can, to render your appearance and tarry here, more commodious to us both, than at present it could possibly be; for, believe me! dearest *Iris*, your own, and my childrens lasting felicity, is the sole care of

Your truly affectionate husband,
Charles's C.
 Mrs

Mrs Lucinda C—d—t,

To Mr Charles C—d—t.

My dear Charly,

WHAT am I to think! or rather, what am I not to think of your continued delays put, to the way of my voyage to you! surely! the change of climate, can have wrought no change in my beloved *Charly*: if so, of all creatures is thy *Iris* the most consummately wretched. O! what knowledge can you want, or of what consideration would you be, to qualify you for the reception of a wife, who loves like your *Iris*?

If my *Charly* is fearful that he may fall under difficulties for my sake, take me but near to thee, where I may rejoice in the sight of thee, and let me be blessed sometimes, within the incircling arms of my dearest *Charly*; secure me under the most ridged bars and bolts, chain me, fetter me, confine me in a dungeon, rather never to breath the refreshing air again;

so

so thou but visit'st me sometimes, I am content; but having thee, to be for ever absent from thee, is such a stab I never can survive. Send me then, my dearest *Charly*, orders to repair forthwith to you, or send me in your refusal, the surest portion to dispatch from thy sight for ever, her, who must then esteem herself,

Your most detested, though still
faithful wife till death,

Lucinda C—d—t.

Towards the end of the first year of Mr *Charles*'s servitude, Mr *O—B—n* dying, Mr *Charles* imagined no less, than that all his projects for the enjoyment of his *Iris* and his own staying abroad, had been untwisted; for that Mr *N—b—g*, would rather employ him as a stranger and slave, if he should stay with him, than as the companion he was to them both in Mr *O—B—n*'s time; but little doubted, and had resolved with himself, for no consideration, to submit to such hard conditions. D He .

He had been little better than a slave, he was sensible, for the whole of the time he had been there; and whatever he had been put upon, had been successive to some handsome request, rather favouring of a petition than a command; and for such usage, he would and could do any thing, he thought, as before, but not through harsh and imperious treatment.

However, he felt but little, if any difference in the easiness of Mr N—b—g's behaviour to him, for the first month after Mr O—B—n's decease; and in the beginning of the second, business rolling in more plentifully upon them, than ever before; Mr N—b—g sending for Mr Charles to drink a glass of wine with him, told him, that he found, since the loss he had sustained of his partner, that the business of the house grew too much for him: he had a very plentiful fortune he said, and had for some time, thought of retiring from business; but then it would be a piece of great mis-conduct in him, to suffer an house of such business to drop. Now Mr C—d—t, said he,

I have

I have observed from the acuteness of your ingenuity, that you have penetrated in one twelve-month, into the mystery of our profession, farther than many, who have been years at it; and as you are, in my apprehension, a very sober man, if you are willing to release me from the fatiguing part of our occupation, and to take the labouring oar upon yourself, I am persuaded, that with a few instructions now and then from me, you will be enabled to carry it on with effect. If you therefore approve of what I now say, I will admit you to half partnership in the business.

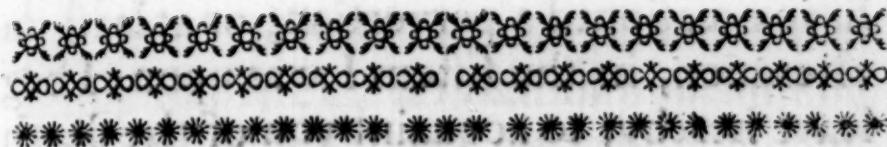
Mr *Charles* was so surprised at what he had heard, that he would scarce credit his own ears for the fact; but, in order to prove its validity, he replied, that has he had ever received the greatest obligations from himself and his deceased partner, and had exerted his best capacity in their service; so, should Mr *N-b-g* honour him with a share of the house, he should look upon himself as indispensably bound, to bestow his whole time, labour, and parts, in discharge of so

much of the business, as he should be able to undergo ; and that if Mr N—b—g would but take the trouble of over-look-ing and rectifying such errors as he might be at first too subject to ; he hoped in short time, to discharge himself intirely to his satisfaction ; but demanded what sum of money he must be obliged to ad-vance for the purpose.

Mr N—b—g replied, that their deal-ings being chiefly by commission, and as Mr *Charles* could expect no benefit from such little out-sets, as himself had not contributed to ; so whatever he might choose to advance jointly with him, in these, would be at his own option ; and that in proportion to the part he from time to time advanced, so would be his dividends of the profit ; so that he might act or not, jointly, in these affairs, with him, as he pleased ; but as to the profit of the commissions to the house, those he should share jointly with him.

This being agreed, articles were drawn and executed accordingly, and Mr *Charles* from that time, became jointly concerned in the house with Mr N—b—g.

C H A P.



C H A P. V.

Mr Charles to his father for money. To his lady of his partnership, and to fetch her over to him. Old Mr C—d—t to Mr Charles. Iris to Mr Charles. Mrs E—d—c—b's hints to her neice.

NO sooner was the affair of the partnership adjusted, than Mr Charles wrote the two following letters to England.

Mr Charles C—d—t,

To Mr Edward C—d—t, Esq;

Honoured Sir,

PResuming upon your future approval of what seemed so highly beneficial to me, and lest the delay whilst I had wrote and waited for your answer, might

D 3 have

have occasioned a perversion, or at least an alteration, in the sistem I was upon; I beg leave hereby, to acquaint you of the death of your friend Mr O— B—n, and of my being admitted as a joint sharer in the house and business, with the survivor now my partner, Mr N—b—g.

You will please to observe sir, that our business is chiefly in commissions; in which way we deal as largely, as any one house in *Naples*, and a very profitable occupation it is. In this, I am equal sharer with my present partner; but besides this sir, we may (and my partner does) traffic upon his own bottom, by way of export and import, at his own risque. Now in this, I may act jointly with him or not, and to what proportion I please, not exceeding one moiety of the adventure.

My present request therefore is, as you shall please to see proper, that you would remit me some sum, that may serve for my quota in this last way of dealing. It will give me credit here, and not supply my partner with occasion for looking above me, as if I could advance nothing, but what must be dependant upon my gains

gains in the partnership he has introduced me into; but this sir, as every matter relative to myself, is with all humility submitted to your better discernment, by

Your most dutiful son,

Charles C—d—t.

Mr *Charles C—d—t.*

To Mrs *Lucinda B—t—t.*

My ever dear *Iris,*

YOUR impatience for seeing me, though it may please, yet the late impropriety of it much concerned me; you know not what you asked, when you was so importunate for your voyage to me, and though I then, for the **very** best of reasons declined it; those reasons now ceasing, I shall by my next, direct you to a passage to me; for about a fortnight hence, a ship will sail for *England*, wherein I shall have an interest; whose master shall

have an order for receiving you, as a lady, who at my recommendation, sails to this climate for her health only; for which reason, appear to him by your maiden name. He shall have orders to pay you some money, out of which, only buy yourself such things as you may appear handsomely with, at your first arrival here, till you can be furnished in our way; and whatever you shall have left, or may be spared from it, send to your aunt, for the support of herself and children.

I am now to let my dear *Jess* know, that I am taken into our trade as a partner, in the room of one deceased; whereby I shall have an annual fund for assisting her, which I had not before; and being now one of the masters of the house, my time will be more at my own command, than whilst a servant only; so that you, my dearest, will now also come to that certainty here, which you would not have commanded, as the case before stood with me; for you may believe my inclination for a sight and union with thee, my love, was no less ardent than your own; but common prudence
enforced

enforced me to acquiesce with what I could no ways rectify: till now, accident has so surprisingly thrown into my lap, an opportunity to receive you, and provide for you to my own wish.

Let your aunt know, that the children shall burden her no otherwise, than as her care may extend towards them. As for their maintenance, and also her own, they shall punctually receive it from me.

I wait now only the captain's sailing, to send you your last instructions, till your voyage shall instate you in the arms of

Your truly loving husband,

Charles C—d—t.

These letters arriving by the same post in *England*, were both near about the same time, answered to Mr *Charles*'s, by the two following.

Edward C—d—t, Esq;

To Mr *Charles C—d—t.*

Dear *Charles*,

NOthing could more have delighted me, than that your application and behaviour, should so soon have returned

you the recompence of a participation in
that business, you so lately commenced a
servitor in ; but diligence will do won-
ders ! nor need an arduous pursuit of a-
ny laudable engagement, ever despair of
success to the enterprizer.

I am glad to find you so considerate as
not to sit down contented with your share
of the commission business only, whilst
money may be gotten by traffic, to your
own profit ; nor shall you want that sup-
ply which will be needful for that pur-
pose. I have sent you a draught upon
Messrs *J—k—n* and *B—re*, for a thou-
sand pounds sterling ; which, if it ans-
wers not your purpose let me know, and
you shall have more ; for I would have
you concerned with your partner as to
the moiety, of every beneficial under-
taking. Be sparing in your expences,
your stock will rise the higher for it ; and
the less company you keep, and public
diversions you engage in, the less will
your expences be ; nor can I see, what a
man in business hath to do with any thing
else but that : for as the bag fills, the de-
light of getting will increase with it.

Let

Let me but hear of your thriving and industry, and you shall want nothing that can be supplied, by

Your loving father,

Edward C—d—t.

Mrs *Lucinda C—d—t,*

To Mr *Charles C—d—t.*

My ever dear *Charly,*

WHAT? did my life say that his
Iris should now come to him?
 O! my love, impute it not to me for impatience; when longing for the heaven of thy embraces. Could you be content with reasons for never beholding your *Iris* more? just such were yours to my desires, insatiable by aught, but being present with my *Charly*. O! may I sleep till the auspicious day that wakes me to the perusal of thy next, calling me to London to embark for Naples; or truly

my love, the hours will seem ages to my wakeful sense, till I am blessed with it.

And is my *Charly* master, says he, of that House I thought him man in ? if so, thy *Iris* may be mistress sure, and may'nt our dearest babies share our happiness ? I fear for them, poor innocents ! well ! surely never turn was so sudden as this, of your arrival to a partnership, in the business you went to serve at ! heaven, favour us, my *Charly* ; we are guiltless to ourselves, and that, though thy barbarous father interposes between us, and absolute felicity.

I will pursue all my dear *Charly*'s directions, both those sent, and to be sent : for I now perceive fortune to be favouring me, since I shall next, behold my own, in my *Charly*'s advancement ; nay, my dear, my aunt begins already to call me madam, and we sat yesterday for the whole afternoon, talking over how I shall be placed, and attended at *Naples*, and how I shall be received amongst the grandes, that you used to tell us lived there.

My dear *Charly* ! send to me as soon as ever you can : for all my things will
be

be clear starched this week. O la! I shall be craisy, till I see your next; but be sure be punctual about the captains name, and the ship, and how I am to find him, and tell me what you shall have given him for me, for fear he should not give me it all, and then *Charly*, write what colour you shall like best for my gown, and pray, do the ladies there wear powder or none? and you know my dear, I have never a watch.—Well!—I wonder whether I have enough to buy one: for me thinks! you need not be sparing, now you are a Master.

I had an hundred other Things to have spoke of, but have forgot them: so, if you remember any thing else, pray say so in your letter. My little *Charly* and *Iris* are the sweetest babes you ever saw. I wish they could any how be brought with me; but my dear, will you be there at my first landing? for I shall stare and gape, and not know what to do without you.

My aunt gives her love to you, which pray accept, with the sincerest duty of

Your most affectionate Wife,

Lucinda C—d—I.

Iris now taking it for granted, that she was soon to become a fine lady, even began to practice it before her aunt and the servants, at Mrs S—n—x's; insomuch, that her behaviour proving so clean contrary to what they had been used to from her, they took her be besides herself. Her aunt had told her, that the only way to have respect was, to claim it; for as her inferiors would imagine she knew what was fittest, they would rarely be brought to pay her, more than she seemed to expect.

There were many other pieces of advice that her aunt gave her; as never to be over conversant with the men, or give them too many liberties before her; for (as they would encroach fast enough) keep them at what distance she would, if they should be over forward in her husband's presence, it might make him jealous, and in that case, all their happiness would be at an end; for nothing but jarrings and debates would ensue, to the breach of all conjugal affection.

She added, that as at her first landing at *Naples*, she would be un-acquainted with

with the language of the country, she would not have her to stir abroad, till her husband had a little instructed her in it, for fear of being both cheated and laughed at.

She added also, that her brother, who had been in many foreign countries, had told her, that if foreigners made but any mention of religion, and happened but in favour of their own, to speak but the least wry word of that of the country they were in, the people would clap them into the *Inquisition*, where they might lie till they rotted, unless, after a while, they should have the compassion to take them out and burn them.

I vow aunt, said *Iris*, you make the very flesh upon ones bones to shiver. Why? do they hold it for a mark of their esteem in those countries, to burn people? I wish from my heart you had kept this part of their management to yourself; for I begin to be afraid to leave *England* already. Why? I never heard of more than one person burnt amongst us for any thing, but by accident, (as my poor parents were) and that was the woman

man who killed her husband; but, never out of an abundance of humanity and compassion.

Now as for religion, aunt, added *Iris*, I am sure I shall never find fault with any one's, not I; for what is their religion to me? they were brought up in theirs, as I was in mine, I suppose, and what need we argue about that? but I am glad you told me of it, that I may avoid it.

Her aunt replied, that they were all *Roman Catholicks* in that country, and therefore, had no churches for such service as ours; so that if she would say her prayers, and read good books, she must carry them over privately with her; but that her brother had said, if the people ever saw them, they would take them away and burn them.

Had it not been in quest of her *Charly*, *Iris* had heard so much of the country he was in, as would have deterred her for ever from quitting her own; but her *Charly* was so attractive, that let what difficulty soever lie in her way, so she could but in the end be sure of him, she would

would venture through it, for his sake.

Iris and her aunt had still a good lump of money in hand, parcel of the two hundred pounds Mr. *Charles* had given them; and now her departure seemed to draw so near (for all that *Iris* dreaded was, that the captain when he came should leave her behind him at last) she advised with my dame, whether she had not best buy her new clothes out of the money they had, that at all events she might be in readiness at any call, and reimburse it out of what the captain was to bring her from *Charly*.

Mrs *E—d—c—b* was for deferring it till the captain should send for her to *London*; but *Iris*, (who loved to be doing) insisted it would set her so much the forwarder to buy them there in the country, and then she should have something to appear in at *London*, she said. How then, said her aunt, can you please your husband in the colour, till he testifies his approbation as you desired him, in his next? well! all that is very true said *Iris*, but I am so set upon it, that I must have a new gown directly, and it shall be a blue

blue silk too, for I know my Charly loves blue.

C H A P. VI.

Isaac B—s—ni to Iris, to fetch her to London. Her behaviour thercupon.

Mr Charles to Iris, with hints for her voyage. Of man's fickleness. Iris and her aunt arrive at London. Their condition but bad. Greatly mended.

IT was scarce more than six weeks after this, that Iris received a double letter by the post, the contents of which two, were as follows.

Mr Isaac B—s—ni,

To Mrs Lucinda B—t—t.

Madam,

IHave the honour to inclose in this, one from signiore C—d—t, of Naples,

to

to you, who he told me would become my passenger, upon my return to that kingdom. He has charged me with a bill for your use, payable to you here, when ever you shall please to favour me with your company at Mr John H-m-d's in *Broadstreet*, behind the *Royal-Exchange*. I desire to see you as soon as possible, being to sail upon my return, so soon as I have cleared and received my lading, which lies now ready. I have, madam, the honour to be

Your most obdt. humble servant,

Isaac B—f—n—i.

Iris upon sight of the cover, could scarce read it for joy. She had so many conclusions all flashing through her brain, without leaving the least impression there, that neither knowing well what she did, or would do, she hurried away to her aunt, who then happened to be with the children in their room. Aunt! said she, I am going away directly. I wish you would leave the children with the maid, and,

and follow me. I have a letter here which you must read immediately.

Her aunt laid the children upon the bed, leaving them to the maids care, whilst she followed her niece into their own room. Far they had not gone, before my dame spying something white on the floor, as they were traversing a long darkish entry, she picked it up; but not being able in the hurry she was in, and for want of more light, to discover what it was, she put it into her pocket as waste paper.

They were by this time arrived in their own territories ; and *Iris* stamping about the room under an excess of confusion, clapt the captain's letter into her aunt's hands, whilst she ran to her drawers, took out all her linen and laid upon the bed : then took the rest of her wearing apparel from the places they were deposited, and was placing them all upon the chairs; when her aunt, who had by this time perused the letter, turning about to her ; what is it, madam, said she, that you are about to do with all these things, that you are littering them all over the room thus ?

Dear

Dear aunt, said *Iris*, can you that have
read the letter, ask that question? does
not Mr. what's his name, the captain
there, desire me to come as soon as pos-
sible? yes indeed does he, nor shall he
wait a moment for me; besides, there's
a bill, I think he calls it, to be charged,
he tells me, for my use, and who knows
what that maybe? I may lose it for aught
I know, if I am not expeditious.

Dear aunt, added she, will you be so
good to run and send *David* to hire a
coach for *London*. I may set out to night
you know; why not? if I can but get
my things packed up? — Have you no
boxes? dear aunt. — or has Mr S—n—x
none? — You have your great leather trunk,
it will hold a vast many things.—Indeed
I must have it aunt.—You shall be paid
for it.—Can I pack up all my things in
bundles, to be scattered about and lost?
no, I desire you aunt, to clear out your
trunk directly, and Mrs S—n—x per-
haps may have another.—I believe two
will do.—You shall both be paid for
them.—But I wish the coach was gone
for.

Iris

Iris having fairly spent her breath to bewilder her senses, her aunt ask'd her whether she knew what she was at or not? when she would have run over the whole again with all her heart, had not her aunt stopt her; with, child, you are giving your spirits the flight, without either sense or prudence; have you consider'd the captain's letter? said my dame. *Iris* replied, she had read it. Then, can you conceive the man can get out of the country these two months yet? has he not brought hither a cargo to be unload-ed? is he not then to take in another? is not he to undergo several formalities, and then to wait for the wind? are all these things, think you, to be compassed in a day? make yourself easy, child; put up all your clothes again, and to-mor-row, when we can go cooly to work, we'll begin to pack up for your journey. I'll then go to my cousin's at *M—e H—cb*, he is perfectly known in *London*, and will get him to recommend a lodg-ing for a friend of mine, in some honest family, near to your business, and then we'll hire you a coach; but let it be the common

common stage, that will be there time enough for you, never fear; nor will your bill or your money run away e'er you arrive to receive it.

But pray, said her aunt, where is your husband's letter child, that Mr — the captain mentions in his? what says he to you? perhaps he may be more particular?

Iris hunted the room all over, ran back to the nursery, felt in both her pockets, her bosom, her gown, but all to no purpose; till at length, she could not recollect she said, whether there was ever a letter from her *Charly* or not; and yet she had an idea of such an one too; but at length, replied, that she was now certain there was none, and recollecting to her surprise, at the captain's saying there was none, when she read his, it not being there; but she supposed it must be a mistake of the captain's, and he would send it by the next post.

This passed current till almost supper time; when Mrs *E—d—cb*, waiting to light a candle, pulled out the paper she had picked up, for that purpose; but inclining

clining to tear of some single slip of it, upon turning it every way, she perceived it would not open without violence ; then feeling also a seal intire upon it, and that it seemed to be a letter, she stept to the door, to see to whom it might belong, when she found it directed in Mr *Charles's* hand to Mrs *B—t—t*, and that it had never been opened.

This odd accident sent her away to her neice with it, who agreed to its being her *Charly's* hand, but was ashamed to say it was inclosed in the captain's, after so positive an assertion to the contrary ; so that not only the aunt, who had forgotten how she came by it, but the neice, could neither conceive, how a letter sent to this, could get into the other's pocket without hands, or the least knowledge of either of them.

They opened it however, and read it, in the words following.

Mr *Charles C—d—t*,

To Mrs *Lucinda B—t—t*.

THIS my dearest will receive from, captain *B—f—n—i*, who will, for my sake, take care of her, as of an own
grainib

own daughter, you being (as I have represented to him) a particular friend of mine. He will give you a bill for two hundred pounds, to be disposed as by my last. I presume he will sail about six weeks after he reaches the port of *London*, so that I desire you will be ready.

Bring no old cloaths with you; for nothing (not of the best) will be suitable to the character you must here appear in. Leave the little ones under the care of your aunt, and whenever she wants money, her order to Messrs *W—n—r* and *B—n—d*, in *C—d—f—b*, shall command whatever she shall send for. Lodge whilst in *London*, in a sober house; for that villainy is very rife there. You may write to me when near sailing, that I may know when to expect you, and watch the arrival of the greatest treasure that can cross the ocean, to

Your most affectionate husband,

Charles C—d—t.

From the above lines of her dear
E. *Charly,*

Charly, it was now fully apparent, that *Iris* need not have been in the violent hurry she had put herself into, for packing up; nor indeed could she from the hint in his letter, have occasion for half the trunks and boxes she inquired after; if nothing but cloaths of the best sorts might appear with her, a ban-box would convey all that she was mistress of, worth removing.

The mind of man has often been compared to a weathercock, from its frequent shiftings and turnings; nay, if we examine it minutely, we shall find it even more uncertain. Is it credible that *Iris*, who from the very first departure of her husband, had been reduced even to her wit's end for a sight of him; that had imputed fifty causes to his prejudice, for the delays he had put to her passage to him; that *Iris* I say, who could so pleasurabley have given up all besides that was most dear to her in life, for the enjoyment of her beloved *Charly*; that she, who shrunk neither at the terrors of the ocean, the fury of tempests, nor numberless other accidents that might befall in

her by the way to him ; nay, that she, who upon the first notice of her leave to depart to him, should have been so urgent for the enterprize, as scarce to allow herself one night with her family, for eagerness to be prosecuting her journey ; that the very same *Iris*, I say, who had in such various ways expressed her desire to be with her *Charly*, at all events, should now, when her wishes drew so near to their completion, and the hopes she had so long buoyed herself up with, were reducible to practice, fall off, and begin to lament her condition, who must be obliged to leave her two helpless babies behind her ? nay, such possession had this taken of her intellects, as almost to have biassed her to avoid the voyage, and to tarry still at home with her children ; but here Mrs *E—d—c—b* interposed, to the subversion of all the most gloomy ideas, and roused her to a sense of her duty.

A new difficulty now started ; that as *Iris* had never been at *London* in her life, nor knew one soul there, though her aunt had engaged to get her a proper recommendation thither ; yet how to go by

herself, having never in her life-time been used to strangers, in such a Place as she had heard *London* to be, she could not tell; she should be ashamed of herself amongst *Londoners*, and not know where, or how, to provide herself with what she wanted, without somebody near her, that she was acquainted with.

Very well, said her aunt; could not you at first have asked me to go with you? for I am satisfied, all this round about speech means but the same thing. Why? dear aunt, said *Iris*, I shall be for ever obliged to you for it, if you will be so good as to give me your company.

Mrs *E—d—c—b* agreed to it, and the children being committed to the care of their maid, under the inspection of Mrs *S—n—x*; about three Days afterwards, the aunt and her neice set out for *London*, in the stage; and in due time arrived at their lodging, which Mrs *E—d—c—b*'s friend had wrote up for.

Here, *Iris* neither knew herself, or any one about her, the scene was so vastly variant, from what she had ever been used to. It happened to be a glazier's where

where they were recommended to, and an exceeding good house it was; but the young man had but lately married a servant in the neighbourhood, and set up there; so that *Iris* being the very first lodger they had ever had, and making a very handsome appearance, there was nothing but your ladyship at every word, and some of such sweetening speeches, that *Iris* had never in her life been more happy, than at this glazier's; for, recollecting her aunt's maxim, and bearing herself in the imperative way, she failed not of respect accordingly.

They arriving at night, quite fatigued with a three days journey, were only fit for bed when they came in: for having nothing with them, or well knowing how to get any thing, they thought it would be far less trouble to get to bed at once, than to be enquiring after eating and drinking that night; for though my dame could be a little more pushing, yet she was altogether as ignorant of the methods of providing themselves in lodgings, as her neice, having never been at *London* in her life-time before; but they both be-

E. 3 *and* ad. 1. fore

fore morning, began to wish they had but been at an inn, for then they should have known how to manage matters much better, and might have had what they would, for calling for.

Their weariness quieted their appetites for that night ; so that it was late in the morning before they awoke ; and then, could have been most glad of their breakfasts ; but *Iris* was so desirous of receiving her money, upon the bill the captain had for her, that no sooner had she dressed, than she enquired for the street, and at length met with the captain.

Here she received from him the bill, and had some discourse with him upon the voyage; his departure, and other matters, and then had as far as *C-d-ff-s* to go, to receive her money. She produced her bill, but no money was to be had ; she must call again three days hence, which chagrin'd her very much : for that neither she or her aunt, expected any less than that the gentleman was going to break, and so had put them off for three days, because he could not pay it, and before that time came, they judged he would be gone off. This

This sent them back to the captain again ; but they had travelled over so much ground in finding their way back, that it was now deep in the afternoon, and the captain had been gone out some hours.

They were both ready to drop they were so fatigued, having been for full six hours on their feet ; but home they must return again or lie in the street, and this at length, they reached ; but could scarce crawl up stairs to their lodging room.

Mrs *W—d* (that being the name of the good woman of the house) desired to know if she could be any ways serviceable to her ladyship ; when *Iris* (ready to perish, both through hunger an thirst) demanded if she had dined as yet ? dined? madain, said Mrs *W—d*, it is rather towards our supper-time (the clock having just struck five) and I presume your ladyship must have dined before now.

Mrs *W—d*, said my dame, we are strangers in Town, and having business out this morning, have had no time for breakfast as yet ; from the want of which we are in truth, both that lady and myself, exceeding hungary ; have you any

thing cold in the house? if so set it before us, and we will pay you for it.

She replied, her family was so very small, that a little matter served them, and truly she had a little piece of fat pork and greens the day before, which they had that day made an end of; but if they would be pleased she should fetch them any thing, she would do it with all her heart. O! by all means said *Iris*; but it must be somewhat that will not be tedious in dressing; for I never was so sick in my life for want of eating, as at present; and hark yee, can we have no beer at the same time?

Would your ladyship please to have mild or stale? said Mrs *W—d*. O! either, any thing, said *Iris*, that will but moisten my victuals. I suppose your ladyship would please to have some wine too, said Mrs *W—d*; when *Iris* was so vexed at her delay, that she cried, just what you will for that, bring but the eatables as soon as possible.

Noo sooner was her back turned, than upon comparing notes between the neice and

and aunt, they both agreed, that a piece of good bread and cheese in hand, would be far more acceptable to them, than the best joint of meat that could be procured, if they must wait the dressing of it, for two or three hours; as their landlady had her fire to make too, they doubted not before it could be laid down: as for Iris's part, so that she had but a good sup of beer, she said, she could be a little happy for an hour longer without victuals.

Whilst they were thus debating, they thought they heard a man's tread coming up stairs; when immediately enters the room a strange young fellow, but genteely dressed, with a voyder in his hand, full of things, covered with a clean cloth, who, whilst the women were staring at him, and wondering what he meant by it, and who he should be; swinging the table into the middle of the room, had set a cold fowl and plate of ham upon it, with every part of its apparatus, before they could say, well done, to him.

He desired to know whether he should stay and wait, or if they pleased to have any thing else fetched; but they were too

much confused to think how what they had got, had come there in such an instant, to know what they might want further as yet, and so bid him wait if he pleased.

In short, it was but a chicken, and two keen country stomachs whipped it up before one could count twenty; and then the ham being exceeding thin, they twisted a long slice round, and twirled it into their mouths at once, having been used to far more bacon than was set before them; so that asking for another fowl, it was brought, with another plate of bacon too, and had it not been for the shame of the thing, nothing would have been more acceptable than a third; but the waiter asking if they chose any butter and cheese, and the ladies coming into it, he set before them a slice of each, and having waited till they had done, they suffered him to carry all off again, in the same expeditious manner he had spread them before them.

The fellow having plied them well with wine, (for they took all he brought them) and whenever they called for something

thing to drink, gave them wine and wa-
ter ; they had tipped up a whole bottle of
port between them ; insomuch, that they
were as gay as birds ; nor was there ever
such a sweet place as this *London*, where,
when a body knew the way of it, such
things were to be had, with only speak-
ing for.

Mrs *W—d* now coming to hope their
dinner had pleased them, they commend-
ed it to the skies ; but both complained of
being immoderately dry, for they had not
tasted a drop of their beer she promised
them ; when the good woman recollect-
ing, that in all her care she had forgot it,
she only asked if they chose mild or stale,
and fetched it.

Iris had ordered mild, as she thought
that would be sweetest, and what of all
things she admired ; but throwing down
a swinging draught, before she had palat-
ed it, she had like to have lost her whole
dinner by the bargain ; for it was so bit-
ter, and made her so sick, she said, that
it was more nauseous, than any physic
she had ever tasted.

Her aunt was contented with this re-
E 6 port

port only, nor would she venture at a sip of the mild, but desired Mrs *W—d* to bring her a sip of the stale, if she pleased. She did so, and down my aunt cast it by wholesale; but such a condition was she in, that she vowed she should puke herself to death, having drank near a pint of vinegar.

It was a considerable time before they could compose themselves, and sorry they were, they said, that amongst all the benefits of *London*, their drink should be so intolerable bad, as not to be born; but Mrs *W—d* replied, she had always esteemed it one of their most valuable commodities, and that for her part, it was the joy of her heart, when she could but get a good mug of it; but her usual drink was porter, which if good of the kind, was, in her opinion, an unexceptionable liquor, and what the best king on earth need not disdain to drink of.

The Ladies craving being far from satisfied, they desired to have a taste of the liquor they called porter, to see how they should approve of that; but at its first coming, were both very shy of engaging it,

it, till Mrs *E—d—c—b* taking the pint pot, my dear, said she, as we cannot live without drink, I will endeavour to familiarize myself to their liquor here, and am therefore resolved to taste it ; but the good lady having clapt it to her mouth, removed it thence no more, till she had swallowed down the last gulp of it.

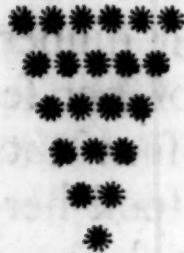
You drink aunt, said *Iris*, as if you liked it ; o' my word, child said she, and so will you too ; for had the pot been as deep again, it had gone. This is most heavenly liquor indeed ; — pray madam, added she to Mrs *W—d*, let me trouble you for another for that lady ; but if you can, bring us a larger mug.

The waiter was below, and sent up his bill for their dinner, by Mrs *Wood*, with a return of her second cargo ; but a sight of the sum total, so surprized poor *Iris*, as to spoil her tip intirely ; for it amounted to eleven shillings and six pence.

Mrs *E—d—c—b* seeing her neice pale as ashes, was afraid she was going into a fit, and sent Mrs *W—d* for some harts-horn drops ; then asking her how she did ?
dear

dear aunt said she, what have we been doing here. Why? what is the matter? child, said she; oh! what can you imagine said *Iris*, our dinner can come to? why? three or four shillings perhaps, replied she. Eleven and six pence said *Iris*, why? it is sufficient for a week, we shall be ruined.

Mrs *W—d* being upon the return, and my dame being unwilling to shew their ignorance; hush, hush child! said she, we saved a supper and breakfast; pay it, pay it, we must be better housewives another time.



C H A P.

WON AND A VISIONS BILLY GOOD FIGHT
 X
 D E D E D E D E D E D E D E D E D E D E D E D E D E
 O

TO C H A P. VII.

Their entertainment at Mr W——d's.

Recommended to a mantua-maker. Iris receives money. Buys a watch. Abounds in finery. Her mantua-maker shews her London. Miss W——d——m and Iris sworn sisters. Miss agrees to go to Naples with her. called on board.

A Man is known by his company, is grown into a proverb, and custom becomes a second nature, is so too ; for custom makes even things, at first odious, at length, agreeable ; till in the conclusion, they grow desirable, and are not to be omitted without pain.

No two persons ever lived under more restraint upon themselves, or had their appetites more in subjection, than Iris and her aunt, whilst they lived amongst frugal

frugal people in the country ; but now they were come to town, though they could not but judge themselves extravagant, yet they were so sensible of the delectable morsel they had eaten from the tavern, as never to forget its relish, or the gou'ſt wherewith they had devoured it.

In order however, to their subsisting a little more within compass, they told Mrs *W—d* the next morning, that if she pleased to provide a dinner, they would eat that meal with her, and desired to know what she would have of each of them for it. The good woman in hopes of providing for her own family gratis, by the bargain, told them, if they pleased, a shilling a-piece, if they required but one dish, and eighteen pence if two. They agreed for the latter, being desirous of the respect that was due to them; and accordingly had a pudding and a little leg of mutton roasted; but the very first stroke that my dame play'd at the pudding, her knife stuck in the middle of it, and would go no farther; at which being somewhat surprized, upon breaking

ing it open, what should she discover there, but a large wick of candle, part burnt, part unburnt, which Mrs *W—d* excused, as having from the darkness of the kitchen fallen into the flour barrel, she supposed ; but with this concluded all further thoughts of the pudding.

Mrs *W—d* was mighty sorry it had so happened, she said, but told *Iris*, she hoped her ladyship would make a good dinner of the leg of mutton, for a finer she believed, never eyes beheld, for its size ; and indeed, it appeared to be so, upon her introducing it ; but the very first cut shewed them, that though the out-side was browned over, by cramming it into the fire, the inside was not blood warm. To prevent too much fault finding with this, Mrs *W—d* said, she never chose to have more done of a joint that could not be eaten whilst hot, than would just serve for the day, that the remainder might bear hashing on the morrow.

Well ! the ladies having picked here and there a piece of brown skin, were forced to rise without a belly full ; at which, Mrs *W—d* seeming greatly concerned,

cerned, promised it should be so no more.

In their walk that afternoon, they had seen the most beautiful pies, in *Iris's* fancy, that ever she beheld; these being at a pastry-cook's, not far from their lodgings, *Iris* sent home six penny-worth of them, which made them a good supper. They that day bought a little tea and sugar, and were by Mrs *W—d*, furnished with the proper equipage for their next day's breakfasts.

At noon they were called to dinner again; when, in order to rectify former mistakes, Mrs *W—d* had hashed her mutton, seemingly very well, but had put such a load of rank salt butter into it, as to them (who had so lately lived in a dairy farm) was intolerable. The good woman recommended it to them, as what she doubted not would be highly agreeable to them; but all would not do, they could no ways put such a force upon themselves as to eat it.

She told them, she had a very fine fowl and bacon, and greens besides, upon which they thought to have regaled; but it happening to be a monstrous large old

old cock, and (to avoid yesterday's error) boiled near an hour too long, scarce any instrument in the family, would gain a pass through a single joint of him. However, as bacon and greens were what *Iris* and her aunt were both fond of, they gave up the bird for these; but the bacon being very rusty, and the greens glazed over with the fat of it, by boiling in the same pot, it rendered them too rank for their teeth, and they were again forced to rise with strong appetites, and take another walk, thereby (if possible) to forget their disappointment.

In passing the pastry-cooks, they again called in, and having had so good luck there the day before, ordered home another six penny-worth of tarts; when *Iris* being exceeding peckish, and eying a six-penny jiblet pie, asked what that was made of. The woman of the shop told her, of goose jiblets, and that she had also some pigeon and eel pies. I wish said she to her aunt, we had had one of these apiece, instead of our dinner to day. The woman asked if she would please to eat one then: she should be very welcome

to

to sit down in her back room, where she would accommodate her in the best manner she could, if she would please to take up with it.

The ladies thanked her very kindly, and before they left the room, eat the insides of two pigeon, one jiblet, one eel pie, and three or four fruit tarts after them, and drank two pots of porter, that the good woman was so kind as to send for, for them.

This heartened them up for their afternoon's walk, and as during their repast, they had talked a good deal with the mistress of the shop, they had among other things, enquired after a mantua-maker of her. This was a most lucky hit, and what ingratiated them to the woman of the house prodigiously, she having a daughter of that occupation, who had lately set up for herself: so that hearing from *Iris* that she was come to town, with intent of going abroad to her husband; nothing upon earth could be treated with more complaisance than they both were? and the woman begg'd leave to recommend her daughter to her, as one

one of the neatest hands at her business in the city of *London*: whereupon, *Iris* gave orders for attending her, the next afternoon, for that she should be out upon business all the morning.

At their return at night, their supper was prepared, of the tarts they had again sent home; and as they were over them in conversation, *Iris* said, it was pitty their first day's dinner was so dear; for that should she set down to victuals as well done, and as nicely dressed every day, she should grow fat, she believed, before she left *London*.

'Tis my conscience, neice, said her aunt, I cannot say, that considering all things, that dinner was so very dear. You must take into the reckoning how hungry we were, and at any other time, one fowl and ham might be abated; that strikes off three and six-pence from the score at once. There was a bottle of wine too, which had it been but a pint, would have abated us another shilling; then what I like the worst of all, and we made little or no use of, was the oil, vinegar, butter and cheese, which are the dearest things

things I have yet seen in *London*; now abating them also, strikes off a full moiety of our tavern bill, and reduces it to six shillings; nay, I doubt not but butcher's meat, would have been still cheaper. Now let us see what it has cost us here. We will say we have paid twice for no dinners, the same six shillings; and three shillings more at the pastry-cooks, to make up; there is nine shillings for two days, when we have eat scarce any thing; and at most, it would not cost more than twelve, for living two days like quality.

Iris came so plumb into this scheme, that they ever after dined from the tavern, like themselves, and for less expence than they had calculated.

Iris went with trembling heart the next day for the payment of the bill; when, to the exceeding joy of them both, but contrary to their expectation, they found the house open, and upon presenting of the bill, the money was paid directly. This set them both in high spirits, and *Iris* would buy a watch as she went home, that she would, she was resolved, and did so at second hand, for sixteen

sixteen guineas; when who could be more happy than *Iris*?

The mantua-maker came to wait upon her according to appointment, and was such a cleanly genteel girl, that *Iris* was quite charm'd with her.

She gave her the exactest account of the fashions imaginable; how such a young lady appeared at court; and what cloaths sir *John's* and sir *Thomas's* ladies and daughters (her customers) had bought for the summer wear; what silks, and colours were most fashionable; and in short, read such a lecture upon dress, as charm'd her auditress *Iris* so, that she agreed to take the young woman with her the next morning, in order to fancy silks for new gowns and petticoats, and for one night gown; and also took her recommendation to a milliner for goods in her way; nor had ever *Iris* like business upon her hands in all her life before; insomuch, that before noon the next day, she had disposed of full fourscore and ten pounds of her two hundred, besides several things bespoke, and to be paid for, though not as yet sent home; nor can it be readily guessed where she might have stopped, if her

her aunt had not reminded her of what she was doing, and what would become of herself and the children, if she should thus squander away the money upon finery.

Don't tell me aunt, said Iris, I have been long the wife of a Gentleman, and the world shall now see that I am so, you may be safe enough with the children ; for has not my *Charly* told you, that you may have what money you will of Mr. *Thingamerry*, in his letter there, and that is as good as an estate of an hundred a year to you ; nor need you be afraid about the payment of it, now my *Charly* is a master for himself ; then pray, don't go about to cramp me, and make me look pitiful, to the disgracing of both myself and my husband.

The fine things beginning now to roll in upon her, Iris dressed as gayly as any lady about the town, nor could she now keep at home scarce a moment ; but must either go see or be seen. She had delighted herself with her young mantua-maker, whom she had received into strict alliance with her, at every place of public resort

resort about town ; had seen almost every thing and place that was worthy of notice ; nor had she once been to look after her captain, for near a month past ; nay, having ransacked *London* over, a project was formed for visiting all the most material places, within a day's drive of the town, and the money flew away like smoke ; till in the height of their career, at her return with the mantua-maker from *Hampton* court one night, she received a letter from captain *B—f—n—i*, to hold herself in constant readiness to be on board at an hour's warning ; for that he waited but for the wind, and the moment it chopped about westerly, he should send for her, be it day or night, and set sail ; desiring, that if she had more baggage than she could bring with her in a boat to the ship, she would send it before-hand, forthwith.

This was a most dead-doing blow to her companion Miss *W—d—m* the mantua-maker, who was a very pretty ingenuous girl ; but as most of her cast are circumstanced, had far more notion of rambling, and society, than of her own

F proper

proper business ; so that as the time might be so short, that *Iris* might have to stay, she had easily gained Mrs *W—d—m*'s promise to be mostly with her, and to go down to the ship with her at last.

This trade having held for several days without notice from the captain, and the two young ladies having talked over the seas and sailing, and seeing foreign parts, till Miss *W—d—m* said, she wished she was going with *Iris*, though it was but in the capacity of a servant, she should think herself vastly happy ; *Iris*, who all along wished for a companion of her own sex, and had many times thought of taking over a maid with her, now her husband was in circumstances to afford it, snapped at what Miss had said ; and would you indeed go over with me Miss, if I would take you ? said she. Miss replied, with all her heart, if she knew but how to get a little linen, and some few other necessaries ; but that she knew her mother could not afford to bestow about fifteen pounds upon her, for with that she could appear with credit to any mistress ; tho' if her mother could, she was certain she would

would disburse nothing upon such an account.

Look yee, said *Iris*, my dear Miss, if you will go with me, I must take you as my servant; for that my husband may think me too imposing upon him, to bring over a young lady merely as a companion, and nothing else; but I can assure you my dear, added she, you shall be very little other than a companion to me; and if you conclude upon it, here is fifteen pounds at your service; go, buy such things as you shall judge useful, and take them on board with you, it will be pretty employment for you to make them up there, where you shall also have my assistance.

This was no sooner proposed, than accepted. Miss received the money, bought the things in the neighbourhood, and returned again by supper-time; nor had they rose from table, before a sailor came from the captain with the following billet.

Madam,

TH E wind now favouring my purpose, I am gone on board, where
F 2 I hope

I hope to see you in an hour at furthest. I have sent this by a faithful sailor, who shall attend you to the ship in my boat, and be assistant in any thing you may want him for.

I am your very humble servant,

If. B—f—n—i.

Upon reading this, the ladies dispatched the sailor for a coach, by Miss *W—d—m—n*'s direction, to carry them to *Tower-Wharf*, where the boat lay. Their baggage was ready for stowing into it at its arrival. *Iris* would not take her aunt with her in the night, she said, having now another companion. She wished her well, kiss'd her, and having with tears recommended her dear infants to her care, left her what money she could well spare, and wishing her a safe journey, stepped into the coach with Miss *W—d—m*. The ship's boat that brought up the sailor, then waiting for them, they got on board safe, at about eleven o'clock that night, and were some miles up the river before morning.

CHAP.



C H A P. VIII.

*Set sail. Cast away. Get to land. Sleep
in the sun. Know not each other.
Greatly distressed in their travels. Are
surprised by a caravan of travellers,
Taken under Mr H—g—'s protection,
an English man.*

THE ladies makes no stop, till they arrived almost at the Streight's mouth; when the wind opposing them, they were obliged to lie on and off, for some days, till they might sail up it; but before they could gain their point, the wind rising even to a tempest from the north, and they bearing away southerly before it, for five days successively, in the night, it chopping about to full west, drove them upon the *Barbary* coast, nor could all their endeavours prevent it.

It was not yet day when the ship struck, at which instant, the lamentable crys that filled the whole ship, were most dreadful.

The mariners being most of them *Napolitans*, fell to crossing their breasts, and praying to saint this, and saint the other, to save them ; but to the only objects capable of their relief, were they wholly silent.

The women could hear the utterance of the sailor's voices, but not a soul could they see, which was now more horrible to them, than even the danger that lay before them : for what the men might be doing for their own safety, they were then insensible of, from the total darkness that surrounded them, there being no one light in the ship remaining.

The poor ladies crept about in the dark, fearful of remaining under cover, and dreading equally the standing on the deck, where they were momentarily exposed to the washing over-board by the billows, that even buried the ship every now and then, as they over ran it.

They stirred not a step from each other,
but

but as they held by what ever was within their reach, so they still clung to each other, inseparably, weeping ready to break their hearts, at the deplorable circumstances they were in; till at length, a more violent wave than the rest, breaking upon them, such a crush was heard, as if every beam and plank in the whole fabric, had suffered by a divulsion from the other, and the whole must have fallen to pieces. This for the time, renewed the out-cry through the ship again; when of a sudden all was quiet, nor did they hear the least stir or noise whatsoever. This profound silence, even shocked them {more than all their by-past sorrows; for they had never before but heard the men groaning, cursing, or praying, or some other way, proclaiming their sorrows.

They called, but not a word was returned them in answer; when being under the most affrighting consternation, they screamed so amazingly, as even thereby to terrify each other but the more; nor durst they then have quitted their station, to have gained the universe; but long they

had not remained in their dismal situation, before they imagined day to be breaking upon them, which whilst they feared to be still at a distance, proved their conjectures true, by the glimmer it cast over the whole hemisphere, still more and more sufficient, as it gently increased, for demonstrating to them their own wretchedness: for now, they discover, that all the support they had under them, was, no more than a few planks, tied together with two or three joists, which at the bursting of the ship, had been jostled into a little cove in the sea bank, and that instead of being upon the water, as they had imagined themselves to be, they had been standing in this cove, with the sea beating over them a long time, from which they might have released themselves, by clambering upon the shore, which they now beheld within three Yards of them.

They presently gained the Land; but so wet and fatigued with standing all night and bemoaning themselves, that sleep, would have been by far the most agreeable exercise for them, had they not fear'd the chilling of their limbs, in their wet cloathing

cloathing, before the sun should be up to warm them, by the strong influence it had in that country.

They stripped their upper garments off however, and wringing out what water from them they could, laid them upon some bushes to dry, whilst they kept walking about themselves, to preserve a natural heat in their own bodies; but no sooner had the sun itself visited them for a while, than notwithstanding the wind that then still blew violently, its beams then pierced them so intensly, that they could scarce bear the least thing to cover them.

They then stripped off what under cloaths they had on, and wrapping themselves in their upper, which by this time the wind and sun had thoroughly dried, they hung up those for the like benefit; and then, the sun being very warm, they chose out the shady side of a clump of bushes, where they set themselves down to sleep; for having taken a full survey so far as their sight could guide them, and seeing neither man, beast, or the least trace of an habitation, they judged

F 5 themselves

themselves to be secure enough from a surprisall.

In the condition they were then in, for want of refreshment, they thought no less, than to have rested themselves for the whole twenty four hours ensuing; but alas; our ladies had elected their form without judgment; and in less than four hours time, they were roused again, almost in burning fevers; for not looking at any thing further than the present shade, they had made choice of the direct south point to repose in, and were almost scorched to death with the sun beams, beating full upon them; nor had they suffered so little, as persons less heavy to sleep would have done: for that they awoke not till the burning grew too intolerable for sufferance of human nature.

Iris being the first whom the pain had disturbed, she could not refrain from crying out at her sufferings, which startled her companion Miss *W—d—m*, who raisng herself between sleeping and wakin, and spying a person so near to her, whom she recollecte~~d~~ not the least knowledge

ledge of ; she was about to have fled, had not *Iris* complained of the heat, which was so intense, that she could not bear it ; when Miss discovering her person by her voice, alack ! dear lady said she, is it you ? what have you been doing, thus to alter yourself ? why madam, added she, at my first waking, I really knew you not ; what have you done to your face ? I should have taken you for one of our english gipsies, had I met you any where accidentally.

Miss, said *Iris*, had not the compliment been rather too disagreeable, I might as fairly have applied it to you, I can assure you ; for never in my life saw I a skin more brown, on the hands of a reaper or labourer. I am very hot, said Miss, and presume that to be all ; but my dear lady added she, your complexion is turned to the rustiest brown, that ever I saw in my life.

Though neither of them much admired the others comparisons, yet their serious reflections assured them, that the case was but too true ; for they both confessing they had gone to sleep upon their backs,

the sun had gained that influence over their faces, that neither of them could soon remove; but however, Miss said, she presumed they would not be the only two frightful figures in the country, when once they should see the inhabitants.

Being thus disturbed, they arose, and sought for the shady side of the bushes; but in doing this, the brisk wind having a little refreshed them, *Iris* said, she would not then lie down again, but go to the shore, and from the banks look out if she could see any shipping, or any part of their ship, or men, dead or alive, upon the shore.

Miss went with her, and upon observing how the planks lay, which they had been saved upon, they not being apprized which part of the ship they belonged to, imagined, that probably, at the same time that they felt the most violent shocks they had, the mariners might all be cast on shore, or at least, might somehow make their escapes then, being so near the bank, and that probably, if they wandered about the country a little, they might find some of them to direct them what

what course to take; but they were soon beat out of this fancy: for casting their eyes out still further to sea, they saw parts of their wreck, floating towards the shore, the tide and wind both setting inwards; and not long after, they saw two or three dead bodies floating about the waters edge, which satisfied them that the crew, or the greatest part of them, were lost.

Having thoroughly dressed themselves, in the things that had been hung to dry, they began both to complain of hunger, having scarce taken any sustenance for the three last days; but above all, their drought was intolerable, after such a parching as they had had in the sun so long, neither of which misfortunes they had the least prospect of repairing.

What country it was they had escaped upon, they were ignorant; nor which way they should bend their course in search of the inhabitants; nor what they might prove when found; whither humane and friendly, or savage and barbarous.

O! cried *Iris*, could I but have thought
of

of this disaster, in my path to my supremest felicity, how could I have ever undertaken this voyage ; and yet to have refused it, had made me more miserable, than the greatest calamity that can here befall me. O ! that my *Charly* was but apprized of my fate, what would he not attempt to save me ? can there be no such thing as to let him know the distress I am in ? yes, surely ! the post goes every where, and why not from hence to my *Charly* ?

Under the hope of writing to *Charly*, by the post, they both pushed forwards ; for being in hopes of finding a town before night, or at least some scattering dwellings, where they might inquire the way to the towns ; they did indeed meet with a little rivulet in their way, at which they both sipped heartily ; but neither an eatable, house, or human creature was attainable by them.

In short, they were compelled to lie abroad again, under the shadow of some wide spreading trees ; but no sooner was it dark, than they heard a vast rustling in some neighbouring bushes, and presently

a roaring noise, as of some wild beast, which chill'd their very blood within their veins to petrifaction. They crept closer still, and hung about each other's neck, resolved to share their fate conjointly; but though the creature whatever it was, advanced no nearer to them, the surprize they had received from it, and the terror they all night sustained, for fear of a visit from it, or some other of like savage kind, prevented their eyes from closing, till peep of day darted forth upon them, when up they got them, and away again upon their journey.

What proved most unfortunate to the ladies in this journey was, that they fixed to themselves no direct point, to which all their steps were to lead; but rambled here and there, as if going along only, must introduce them to some haven; so that after several days travel, they could not determine how far they might be from the spot they set out from; they were now, not only in a strange country, but so far from a regular direction to any place in that country, that they might have travelled there till this time, not a whit wiser

wiser than they then were, as to their finding their way out of it, had not by chance, after about five weeks from their first landing, a sort of a caravan happened to pass cross a most extensive plain, which they were at that time sweltering over.

They had got a considerable way upon the plain, before the travellers entered it, and were some furlongs to the left of them; when upon casting their eyes somewhat backward, how were they surprised, at the sight of such a train of men and beasts, as they then must be exposed to; for the best that they could have to hope from them, as they imagined would be, the dishonouring them, and subjecting them to their pleasures; but if they were liable to such apprehensions, from the bare view of such a number of men so near them, what were their horrors; when, instead of keeping the course they had entered the plain in, several of them detached from the main body, came riding on towards them.

The two women, now ready to sink to the earth with fear and trembling, fell upon

upon their knees, with hands erect, to deprecate the fate, that now so nearly awaited them.

The men rode round and round them, mounted on camels, beasts, that neither of the Ladies having before beheld, they took them for somewhat more then men, who could command so prodigious Creatures.

One of the strangers then sliding down from the back of the beast, and walking towards them, raised up Miss *W—d—m*, and spoke to her ; whilst *Iris* still kept weeping profusely ; but Miss, no ways understanding what he said, she kept on begging and intreating him to use them civilly, and to direct them to some coast, where they might find shipping to Naples.

The man understanding her, to the full, as little as she did him, their discourse might for ever have been fruitless, had he not also stept to *Iris*, and causing her to rise, ordered them both by sign, to precede him, to their main body.

Resistance being vain, repugnance would have argued stupidity : so that they

they both marched, according to order, but as heartless as criminals, in procession to their Execution.

The main body halted till they came up; and now, what wóuld become of them, they trembled to think ; when one of the foremost of the company, who was mounted upon a most beautiful barb, riding up, and asking many questions, without effect ; but believing from the sounds of their speech, that they were english women, sent to them an english Renegadoe, who was then in the Company, as interpreter to one of that nation, who had a commission for purchasing horses in that country, for exportation, to see whether they were of England or not.

His first salutation, seeing them extremely well dressed, though dirty, was, so Ladies, what do you travelling these wilds? whereupon, the two womens hearts were ready to leap out at their mouths, to meet a countryman: for that they were assured he must be, by his manner of speaking the language : so that casting aside the fears that so lately overwhelmed them, they drew up closer and

and closer to him, in order to relate to him their unfortunate voyage, and how long they had been wandering in the wafts and deserts, before they were blessed with the sight of his company that morning, and with all, intreated him, as their countryman, to commiserate their case, and to recommend them to the clemency of his fellow travellers, that they would please to forward their steps to some friendly port, where they might either gain a Passage to England or to Naples.

He said but little more to them, than ordering them to follow him. He led them through the whole body of the people and beasts, to the very further side of them ; where a little detached from the main body, they saw about half a score men on horseback, with most of them led horses in hand also.

Their guide, when they came near to these, trotted up to one amongst them, who was cloathed in the english fashion, and after a few words with him, they both came forwards to meet the Ladies. The stranger asked them, by what odd turn of fate, they were then found in those

those deserts ? to which *Iris* replied, as before to the Renegadoe. The gentleman expressed his concern for their misfortune ; but as to the severities they had undergone on shore, he said, that to them only, would their deliverance be owing, in that they had introduced them to the knowledge of him : for he assured them had they met with any of the natives first, they would have been taken captive, and perhaps, must have ended their days under a slavish drudgery. Put yourselves under my protection, said he, and though possibly, it may cost a small matter to the master of the camels, for his civility to you, let not that at all perplex you ; since if you should not be at present prepared for it, I will take that burden upon myself.

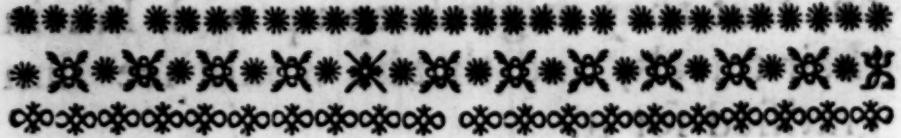
The ladies hearts were so abundantly joyous, and full of gratitude, at what they had heard from this stranger, that each grasping one of his knees, they kissed them, called him their deliverer, begg'd for blessings on his head, and *Iris* vowed, that if ever they lived to meet in England, her husband should amply reward, his voluntary benevolence to them. We

We shall now call this stranger by his Name of *H—g—s*, for the better carrying on of our story, tho' he had not as yet declared it to the Ladies. So, this Mr. *H—g—s*, then sending for the master of the camels, told him by his interpreter, that he having accidentally met with two of his countrywomen, he should be obliged to him, for the use of one or two of his spare beasts, for them to ride upon, that they might keep up with him in their travels, and that he would see him gratified for it.

The master, with all submission condescended to the request, and ordering one that was only laden with spare cloaths and sacks, that had held Provisions, but were empty ; sat up the two women upon it, judging very rightly, that being the only women in company, and friends, they would rather choose to ride together, than separately ; for which, so soon as they were from Mr *H—g—s* apprized of his meaning, they most humbly thanked him.

Then Mr *H—g—s* telling them he must accompany his horses, in a separate body

body from them ; desired them, when they should alight in the evening for the night, that they would come directly to his tent, which would be pitched somewhat to the right of the camels, and whereupon, they would see a lion, to distinguish it from all the rest that would be pitched about it, for his grooms and servants.



C H A P. IX.

Believe their companions Turks. Their discourse of the seraglio. Further discourse of theirs. Received at Mr H—g's tent. He proves the man of honour. Iris at his request relates her story, and Miss W——d——m hers.

THEY journeyed on though but slowly, and the two women being upon one beast, had now the opportunity of

of conversing freely together, without being overheard by any of the rest of the company who might understand them. They hoped this accidental falling in with these travellers, would prove of advantage to them, and that as they consisted of so great a number, should any single member make an attempt upon their chastity, yet there would not want others of them, who holding such acts in abhorrence, would not fail to exert themselves in their service.

Whether-to they were going, was very uncertain to them, having received no intimation of it as yet; nor in the company they were then joined to, could they demand a knowledge of it, they all speaking in a tongue intirely foreign to them. By their turbans and long garments, Miss W—d—m said, she believed they were *Turks*, having heard such a sort of persons so called at *London*; and then, what if they should convey them to the great *Turk's* seraglio, which she had both heard and read so much of?

Iris being a perfect stranger as to the great *Turk* and the seraglio she spoke of,
but

but suspecting it to be some terrible place, from the idea she had affixed to the word, desired Miss *W—d—m*, that if she knew any thing about these matters, she would explain them to her, and why she should imagine they would carry them thither.

Miss *W—d—m* replied, that she had read much about the turks, and exceeding pretty amusement it was; for that there was a man amongst the turks, whom they called the grand signior, the same as with us, said she, would be called king; and she said, that he never married, but had a vast number of the very finest women that were to be collected, throughout all the neighbouring countries brought to his court, where they were shut up, never more to stir without the walls of it, and that he nightly chose, such one from amongst them, as he fancied, to spend the night with, and there they always remained as prisoners, being guarded and served by Eunuchs, till the day of their deaths.

This short sketch of her companion, threw *Iris* into such a fit of dispiritedness that she should scarce support herself up,

on the beast : for now, she could admit no notion to enter her brain, of the least avoidance of the hell upon earth, that had been represented to her, and into which she as verily believed herself upon her journey to, as if she had sold her body to turkish factors for that purpose.

Miss endeavoured all that lay in her power to release her from such delusions, by representing to her, how many other ways there were in the world, for disposing them, besides what she had mentioned, and how much more likely it was, that they were intended for one of these, than for that single particular she was so averse from.

As to her own part, she said, she had been of opinion, from the first moment that she saw the englishman, who invited them to his tent, that he had a design upon one of them, from a kind of smartness that twinkled in his eyes, even peculiar to himself alone, but which of them it was he had appropriated, she could not tell ; though she could not say, but should it be herself, she should be much better satisfied with him, if it must be

so, who was her countryman, than with any one of those gruff looking fellows in the great caps and whiskers.

Methinks Miss, said *Iris*, you speak of such an act, as would split my very heart in the reflection, when I should call my dearest *Charly* to my mind, with so little concern as amazes me. Nay, as if you was even as ready to answer it, as he to call you to such a deed ; whereas I should much rather part with my being, and would, were it to be brought to the trial, before I would admit of such an injury to my husband, as that.

Dear lady, said Miss, judge not of my voluntary inclination, from what may accidentally befall me ; for I can assure you, my principles are no less chaste, than the most virtuous of my sex ; but yet, I can not see, in case of a constraint put upon me through violence, to the suffrance of a disgrace that I abominate, why I may not receive the injury more agreeably from one object than another. As to the destruction of my being, it is wholly foreign to my way of thinking ; nor should I esteem myself a whit worse than before,
upon

upon rising from such a deed as I have been compelled, without the least concurrence of my own heart or will.

Virtue, added she, is to guide us in our own conduct, not to enable us to contend with superior force; and when prayers and entreaties fail us (which are all that out sex can oppose to the fury of the other) we have nothing more, than to be born down by that torrent that becomes too many for us.

In this kind of discourse passed their time, during the remainder of that day's journey, which concluded some hours before sun set, that they might have time for preparing the proper accommodations for the night; and for their refreshment; but when they came to be taken from off the camel, they were scarce able to stand upon their legs, and their limbs and joints were so sore, through the rocking motion of the beast, that the fatigue of no prior day's journey on foot, was to be compared to what they then felt. However, a little time reduced them to order again, and they sought out the english

man's tent, from the directions he had before given them.

They found him amongst his servants and horses, being distinguishable a far off by his habit, and went up to him, who very complimentarily received them, and conducted them into his tent, then desiring them to be seated, ordered them a glass of wine, but excused his own waiting upon them for some little time, till he had given orders for the proper disposition of his cattle, and seen them executed himself, being what he never omitted he said.

In about three quarters of an hour he returned, and seeming very facetious, ordered a supper for the ladies, and then asked them, how they should choose to lie, single or double?

The demand in their apprehensions, bearing a sort of double entendre, they both were silent, hung down their heads, and blushed excessively; when recovering himself, ladies, said he, pardon the unpoliteness of my words, which I perceive have warmed you; but believe me! I meant no more by them, than whether
you

you would please to lie separately or together.

The ladies now answering, replied, if he pleased : or that having been so long disused to a bed, if he pleased, they would sleep fitting ; but this he being by no means willing to permit, and the ladies choosing but one bed, he ordered his second tent to be pitched for himself ; and said, the ladies should make use of his own.

This occasioned the highest flown strain of compliments, that the ladies had conducted for many a day ; though the force lay so strongly on the male side ; as at length common decency took place, and the ladies both enjoyed themselves in his tent ; but still, something seeming wanting to the completion of their satisfactions, Mr H—g—s (who by this time had exposed his name to them, and heard theirs) told them, he fear'd there was still some other affair, wherein he might possibly accommodate them, if they would be but so free as to lay open their pleasures to him ; for that in his apprehension, all was not as yet perfectly agreeable to them.

Iris then taking upon herself, under the encouragement of his generous behaviour to them, to say, that as he was pleased to command them to be explicit, they believed no one thing could occasion to either herself or her companion, a single moments reflection after the benevolence he had treated them with, save how they should be secured in the night from visitors; there being only a slight curtain to defend them from the intrusion of man or beasts, whilst they slept.

Mr *H—g—s* smiling, replied, ladies, I am commander of my own little troop, who stir not but at my nod; so that you have nothing to fear from them; and I should hope, your opinion of me, would prevent the suspicion of danger from thence; however, your tent, when you are retired within it, will be as sacred as a temple, nor durst a creature penetrate till called for. I shall place a guard before the entrance, which no man shall pass to you, but at the peril of his own life, for his audacity.

They both hoped, they said, he would be so good as to pardon their little feminine

nine nicities, they were such as had grown up with them, and what they could not devest themselves of at pleasure. It were great pity ladies, said he, that you ever should. I have a good woman of my own at home, added he, who was she the less scrupulous than you ladies are, would be unworthy the name of my wife.

Having settled preliminaries, their supper was introduced, of such things as the ladies had never before seen ; but upon which they both fed most heartily. Their liquor was water and wine, though the water was but very indifferent, and tasted much of the vessel it was kept in ; but the wine meliorating it, they both eat and drank plentifully, whilst they elevated to the very skies, their praises of so noble a benefaction, to the distressed.

After supper, Mr H—g—s desired the ladies to pleasure him, with some account of their travels, and the occasion of it ; when *Iris*, in order to introduce her marriage to a gentleman, whose fortune was far superior to her rank, began with her husbands family, His fathers disposition,

and the sad catastrophe of her parents, which first brought her to the knowledge of her husband ; the difficulties she had since undergone, and that her husband in order to separate himself from his father, having submitted to the prosecution of an employment at *Naples*, had most fortunately come into a share of it, and sent for her over to him, that they might there enjoy the blessing of each others society, which the cruel nature of his father, prevented at home. That as they were in their way, they were wrecked upon that shore ; but had never since seen one of the crew they came out with, so suspected them all to have perished.

Mr H—g—s seeming greatly moved by her dismal narrative, compassionated her extremely, he said : but desired her not to be cast down, since he was certain she was a favourite of heaven, or so many steps could not have concurred, to her furtherance in the very way she so strenuously laboured after : for that, had she been cast upon any more distant part of the country, or had she taken any more direct way to inhabitants, than she had taken,

taken, in either case, she could never have so opportunely fallen into his way, as she had done ; nor had she in all probability, ever seen *Europe* more ; but as providence had seemed to reserve the honour of her protection for him, he would so far patronize her cause, as to see her, barring accidents, safely delivered into the hands of her husband, if she would put herself under his care.

After their hearty commendations of his generosity ; he turned to miss, and desiring to hear somewhat of her little history.

She replied, that her farther was a tradesman in the city of *London*, of exceeding good business as a cook ; but being a man of reading, and one of the most conversible men one should meet with, of very ready parts, a bon companion, and one who sung an extreme good song, his company was so much coveted amongst the better sort of people, that even the advantages he thereby gained in his business, from an almost constant employment by them, was not equivalent for the loss his trade sustained by his absence from it:

so that he had not followed it many years before drinking, and ill hours had so impaired his health, as to bring him to his grave, at the age of thirty-five, or thereabouts ; when her mother being left but in low circumstances, with herself, her only child ; she just made a shift by the same occupation, to keep her head above water, and to place her out apprentice to a mantua-maker, to which calling she had but just almost served out her time, and was beginning to work for herself, when that lady (pointing to *Iris*) coming out of the country, in order to follow her husband to *Naples*, being a stranger in town, was immediately recommended to her, for the making some cloaths to carry over with her.

But by such means, becoming familiar with each other, such an affection, insensibly, grew between them, as determined her to follow the lady, even as a servant, to *Naples*, and take her fortune with her ; nor indeed, could she say, but that a little of her father's disposition, implanted in her by nature, of restlessness whilst at her proper employment, might also

also greatly sway her to the undertaking, as for what else had befallen her that day, the same fate, which steered her and her ladies course together, had attended them both equally.

Iris then saying, that if it would not be too great an intrusion upon his good nature, she should be glad to know, what had brought him also to that part of the world : he replied, that as they must be up early in the morning, early hours in the evening would be most salutary ; but having no objection to her gratification, in the least, he would the next morning comply with her request, and thereupon he withdrew himself to his new apartment, leaving the ladies in possession of his late.





C H A P. X.

The ladies are cautious but not molested.

Ladies slept too long. Ride hard to overtake the caravan. Almost dead with the camels motion. Mr H—g—s relates his story. Promises to see them safe to Naples. Attacked by a party of moors. H—g—s shoots their leader. Drives them off. Encamp on a plain, and set a watch.

THOUGH the ladies had been thus courteously entertained by their new acquaintance and professed protector, yet that timidity so inherent in the chaste part of the female sex, and a consciousness that vice is never so successful, as when it appears under the vizor of innocence and sobriety, kept the ladies waking, for some time after they were laid down;

down ; and as it would rather be a novelty to them to undress for bed, than to lie down in their cloathes, which they had been so long accustomed to; so they only closed the door of their tent, and without more ceremony, fell along upon the bed. They watched every breath that blew, or ruffle of their covering, and seemed to be determined to keep each other watchful, by entering into discourse upon the last day's transaction, that they might be upon their guard, should any mischief present itself ; but nature's power is superior to that of resolution ; for long they had not been recumbent, e'er their faculties both for speech and reflection, were immersed in slumber ; from which, neither of them was released, till the next morning ; when the bustle on all sides awaking them, they started up, left their indulgence of themselves, should prove any ways ungrateful to their benefactor.

No sooner were they upon their legs, and had, as they every morning constantly did, begged a bleffing for the ensuing day, then to the tent door they went, to see

see what was transacting there, when not a single tent but their own was standing, being all packed up, and laden upon camels. This gave them inexpressible uneasiness, and horridly vexed they were, that they should have brought any inconvenience upon their patrons, whom they now saw amongst his horses, all ready drawn out, and fit for moving.

The great number of travellers, and camels, that they had left to their left hand, the night before, were now so diminished by their distance, as scarce to be perceptible upon the vast plain. Upon Mr H—g—s first glance of them, addressing himself to them in the compliments of the morning, he assured them, that the caravan had been moving near an hour, and that they must mount the camel which was left behind for them, immediately, that he must accompany them with his best speed after it.

They were so ashamed of having recommended him, that they knew not how to appear before him, they said ; but he replied, that only one mischief could attend them, and that, he hoped very

very soon to be fearless of, which was, least the roving moors, of whom, he had notice to be watching his motions, should surprise him separated from the caravan, in which case, they would make a bold push, for all the fine Horses he had with him ; but now his fears for that were over, no such being in sight, and the caravan within distance to be overtaken.

He then gave each of them several little cakes, whereof they must make their breakfasts, he said, and when they arrived at the main body, they should have water ; then trotting on, to the pace he would have his men keep to with the led horses, it was surprising to the ladies, to see that their beast did but walk all the while ; but had such a rack with him, as almost shocks them, who were as yet unacquainted with the humouring of his motion, all to pieces ; but after a little ride, one of the grooms spying some few men on horseback, to their right, and giving Mr H—g—s notice of it, least it should be any party of the moors, he put forwards upon a round gallop.

His speed, regulating that of his servants,

vants, they all set up a round gallop likewise ; when their camels not chosing to be left behind, fell to trotting in such a rough manner, as the women could scarce bear ; nor had they ever in their lives, more difficulty to atchieve the most arduous affair, than they now had to keep the camels back, but by the time they attained the main body, not a member belonging to them, but felt as it had been beat in a morter, and the continuity of their muscles, seemed to be the whole cement, for holding their joints from falling asunder.

Upon gaining the main body, Mr H—g—s asked the ladies after their healths, and how they approved riding upon so noble a beast as a camel ? but the poor ladies had scarce strength enough to reply, that his swinging walk was uneasy enough, but, that might they have all the camels in the company presented to them for their pains, they would not again trot so fast, and so far as they had that morning.

He wished with all his heart, he could better accommodate them, he said ; but they

they would be ready sooner the next morning, he hoped ; when there would be no occasion for forcing on so ; the caravan itself never exceeding a foot pace.

They made a shift to rub through this day's journey, and halted rather earlier than ordinary, upon account of a lake of water near at hand, from whence they purposed to replenish their water casks. This rest proved abundantly refreshing to the two women, who after a repast that Mr H—g—s prepared for them, made bold before bed-time, to claim his promise of the foregoing evening.

Ladies ! said he, my father was a younger son of a very good family in *Leicestershire*, who from a slender beginning in the army, raised himself to a colonel of horse ; and from the observations he had made on that animal, was esteemed one of the best judges that way, of any man in *England*, in his time.

My father being so noted a man, was sued to by most of the nobility, who were any ways curious in that creature, for his opinion, before ever they would part with large sums in that merchandize, either

either for draught or furniture ; by which he gained many considerable presents ; and so fond was he of the employment, that he would mostly take me, then but a boy, with him upon those occasions ; till from a frequent repetition of his maxims to me, and the remarks I made of myself ; before I was twenty years old, I was reckoned no ways inferior to my father that way.

The commendations I daily drew upon myself, as a perfect connisseur in that animal, still heightened my application to the study of that creature ; till my father dying, (when I hoped to have stept into an ample fortune) his expensive way of life, I too soon found, had left me void of all expectations, save what I could form from my own industry ; and happy did I then think myself, that I, on whom my father had neither bestowed cost or pains, to qualify me for any of the general occupations in life, had from my own genius, fallen into a way, that at least might preserve me from starving.

I was soon no less noted for horse flesh, than my father had been, and ever preserving

serving my character, for integrity to my employer, I picked up a genteel livelihood, amongst the best of company ; till being able to keep my horse, and servant in livery, about my thirtieth year I married a lady in *Devonshire*, with upwards of seven thousand pounds to her fortune; but still, my very soul dwelt so upon horses, that I could not refrain from my darling occupation ; though now I would undertake none but very large commissions, as this which I am now upon is, for two noble earls, who are desirous of the finest stables in *Europe*.

I have been travelling for this purpose near these eight months, and having made my first stand at *Tunis*, where I have now thirty of the finest creatures that man ever crossed ; I am returning from another circuit, with sixteen more, with which I am to freight a ship home to *England*; hoping to conclude my tour in eighteen months, or thereabouts, which will bring me in a clear thousand pounds, all charges born. This, ladies, added he, is the sole cause of your finding me in these lonely deserts.

Now

Now the cattle I have with me, added he, being so exceeding valuable, I have had notice, that a party of moors have a design to surprise me, and if possible, to carry off my cargo, which makes me travel under the shelter of this caravan, where I can always have assistance at hand ; having agreed with the master of it, for the help of all his servants.

He then told them, that he feared it might prove rather too far out of his way, considering, that expedition was the life of his cargo, to go with them up to *Naples* himself ; but that he either would so do, or put them on board some other vessel, where they should be taken equal care of.

They set out again the next morning in due time, the ladies having ordered themselves to be called early ; nor, though the whole twenty four hours, would not have been too tedious a rest for their battered limbs, would they indulge themselves for a moment after their call ; but they found themselves much more alert and lively that morning, than on the preceding one : for meeting with no disturbance

ance the foregoing night, they had stripped and repos'd so securely, as to have dissipat'd their late weariness, in a great measure, and were qualifid for the fatigue of a new day.

It was about eleven o'clock in the morning, and exceeding hot, as they were passing by the skirts of a vast forest, which lay but little to their right; when one of the foremost of the camels, whether through want of water, or from the immoderate heat, was uncertain, fell down under its burden, insomuch, that it was believed to be dying.

This stopt the whole march, and a number of the drivers crowded about the fallen beast, to release it from its burden, and endeavour to make it rise again, which took up no inconsiderable time; during which, Mr H—g—s, who always both marched, and encamped, to the right of the main body, moved slowly on before, expecting them soon after him; but had scarce gained more than a furlong a head of them, before a body of the roving moors, who had secreted themselves in the wood, rushing out in his rear, drew themselves

Now the cattle I have with me, added he, being so exceeding valuable, I have had notice, that a party of moors have a design to surprise me, and if possible, to carry off my cargo, which makes me travel under the shelter of this caravan, where I can always have assistance at hand ; having agreed with the master of it, for the help of all his servants.

He then told them, that he feared it might prove rather too far out of his way, considering, that expedition was the life of his cargo, to go with them up to *Naples* himself ; but that he either would so do, or put them on board some other vessel, where they should be taken equal care of.

They set out again the next morning in due time, the ladies having ordered themselves to be called early ; nor, though the whole twenty four hours, would not have been too tedious a rest for their battered limbs, would they indulge themselves for a moment after their call ; but they found themselves much more alert and lively that morning, than on the preceding one : for meeting with no disturbance

ance the foregoing night, they had stripped and repos'd so securely, as to have dissipat'd their late weariness, in a great measure, and were qualifid for the fatigue of a new day.

It was about eleven o'clock in the morning, and exceeding hot, as they were passing by the skirts of a vast forest, which lay but little to their right; when one of the foremost of the camels, whether through want of water, or from the immoderate heat, was uncertain, fell down under its burden, insomuch, that it was believed to be dying.

This stopt the whole march, and a number of the drivers crowded about the fallen beast, to release it from its burden, and endeavour to make it rise again, which took up no inconsiderable time; during which, Mr *H—g—s*, who always both marched, and encamped, to the right of the main body, moved slowly on before, expecting them soon after him; but had scarce gained more than a furlong a head of them, before a body of the roving moors, who had secreted themselves in the wood, rushing out in his rear, drew themselves

selves up between Mr H—g—s and the camels, in order to cut off his communication with these ; and by compelling him to remove still further from his company, to make a sure prize of him.

This unexpected event, came upon him so suddenly, as not a little surprized him ; nor could he readily recollect what means to pursue for his safety. His servants were all well armed with pistols and carbines, and himself with a pair of pistols and a sabre : so that calling out to, and encouraging his men, he ordered all the new bought horses into the custody of a few of them, and drawing up to the rest, marched forward at the head of them, to the attack of the enemy, who were in number at least fourscore, to about twelve that Mr H—g—s had with him.

The main body upon the camels, seeing what was going forwards, began to move ; whilst Mr H—g—s leading on his little troop, advanced to the enemy, to get them between him and the camels, so close, that these might fall upon their rear, whilst he should charge them in the front ; but the camels moving, as he thought

thought, two slowly, and being determined to preserve his property at all events, trotting up to the leader of the moors, with his drawn sabre in his hand, as if resolved to attack him with that only; the moor extended his javelin, in order for striking him, before his approach would render his sabre useful to him. This Mr *H—g—s* apprehending to be his intent, no sooner was he within due distance, than drawing forth one of his pistols, he shot him dead from his horse.

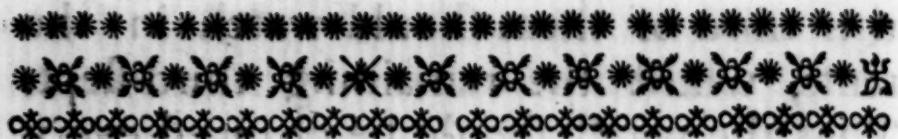
The consternation that the death of their leader put his whole party into, is inconceivable; and this the main body perceiving, they pushed on upon a bold trot, with the armed men before, whilst Mr *H—g—s* spiriting on his men to follow him, and shewing no sign of fear, the enemy were so intimidated, as to quit the field with precipitation, to shelter themselves in the wood again; during which flight, one or two more of them were slain.

It was to no purpose to pursue them into the wood; so that Mr *H—g—s* rejoining the camels, they pursued their way

way again ; but still, ever upon their guard, lest by a fresh re-inforcement of their numbers, the moors should again fall upon them ; nor did the fugitives disperse themselves, or retreat, as it was hoped they had done ; for not long after, as they drew somewhat nearer the wood, two or three of them rushed out, and forcing at a venture, retreated again ; and after this manner they behaved at three or four several times, wherein they shot two men, and one of Mr H—g—s fine horses.

Hereupon, (though much out of their way) they all withdrew from the wood, more into the open plain, and calling together several of the merchants, who possessed the greatest property, together with Mr H—g—s, they held a consultation, how they should behave for the remainder of that day ; where they should encamp that night, and what guard should be kept to give notice of the enemies approach ; when it was concluded, to march further into the plain ; to erect but one third part of the tents, and that one third of the whole people should watch abroad,
at

at stated distances from the camp ; another third of them should watch in the tents, whilst the remaining third slept. That the watch should be changed every four hours, whereby, each man, would have four hours sleep, watch four hours abroad, and the like number in the tents ; that the out watch should be posted in a circle, round the camp, at two furlongs distance ; another at the distance of one, and another within thirty yards of the camp ; and that as the nights were moon light, the first watch upon sight of the enemies should fire a pistol, and retreat back to the seconds place, who giving the same signal, should retreat to the nearest watch, who should give notice to all the tents, and awaken the sleepers ; and then drawing up all armed, under the conduct of Mr H—g—s, whom they nominated their général, from the noble action performed that day, and act as he should order them. Then nominating the three watches, and assigning them their posts ; after a slight refreshment, and pitching the few tents appointed for a shelter, every man entered upon duty, and all was quiet again.



C H A P. XI.

The moors attempt them in the night. Repulsed by Mr H—g—'s stratagem. He gains several of the moors horses. Servants take great booty. As good as their masters now. Politic stroke to tame them. Merchants would have a share of the moors horses. Mr H—g—s gains them to himself by a treat.

TH E disposition of the camp that I have just mentioned, was far from an improvident caution : for towards the middle of the second watch, the firing of a pistol was heard in it, and presently of another. The tent guards were collected armed, the advanced guard were retreating, and the sleepers preparing for action : so that in less than ten minutes time there was such a stir in the camp, that the ladies unable to rest, or knowing where to retreat

retreat to, were upon the search for Mr. H-g-s, to direct them for their future conduct.

He had marshalled his troop in order, and was advancing to oppose the enemy, but behaved with that composure upon the ladies application to him, as amazed them, he told them, from which quarter the enemies were expected, and advised them to the contrary side of the camp, there to remain, unless any party of the enemy should appear from thence, in which case, he having planted a watch there to give the alarm, he advised their retreat to the tents, and there to wait the event.

This was most shocking news to the ladies; but not further to interrupt him, they marched to the Quarters assigned them.

The enemy came on in three divisions, as the out-guard could plainly discern by the moonlight; for they were sooner discernable on horseback, than Mr H-g-s's party on foot; besides which, Mr H--g--s had discovered another advantage, which

none of the rest thought of; for the moon shining full in the enemy's face, they could neither see so far before them, nor were the objects so perceptable which stood before them, with their dark side towards them: for which reason, Mr H—g—s ordered his whole force to fall flat upon their bellies, and by no means to stir till he should give the signal, by a shout; when they were to rise up and fire instantly.

He then drew them out in front, to the extension of the enemy's battle, and gave the word flat, when not a creature upon the approach of the moors, was to be seen upon the plain, by them; till being arrived within the distance of a fair shot, as the moors were securely marching up to the camp, Mr H—g—s shouting and starting up, his men all did the same, and instantly firing upon the enemy, made such a slaughter, that the rest turning tail for flight, were never more seen by them for the whole journey.

Mr H—g—s seeing this, ordered his men to pursue shouting; which they did for about a quarter of a mile; but then giving

giving the word to halt, lest the moors by winding about, might gain the advantage of their rear, they returned to the camp again, in hopes of remaining quiet till day should break.

The firing of so many guns, and the continued shouting that the men had made for soime time, had so invigorated Mr *H—g—s*'s string of horses, which were most of them stone-horses, that they neighed, and grew so rampant, there was scarce any such thing as mastering them ; but it had one good effect with it, for before morning, thirteen of the moors cattle, drawn by the call of the others, were come up to them, and were all secured by Mr *H—g—s*'s servants ; some of which, Mr *H—g—s* afterwards told the ladies, were of far more value, than any that he had picked up, at an immense price in the country, but herein he enjoined them to secrecy.

Day-light now coming on, and not the least sign of the moors appearing, they collectivly returned their thanks to Mr *H—g—s*, as their deliverer ; acknowledging it to be wholly owing to

the prudence of his conduct, in secreting his men from the enemy, till the time came for execution; but as they had escaped favourably, and were most of them greatly fatigued with watching, and the late pursuit, it was unanimously agreed, not to remove the camp for that day, but make it a day of feast and rejoicing, for their good fortune.

Mr *H—g—s* then moved, that as some at least, of the enemy, must have fallen by their shot, a detachment of the servants might be made, who should report what loss they had suffered, and possess themselves of what booty they might find for their own benefit.

Not a soul was against the knowledge of the enemy's loss, nor were they averse from the servants being the parties dispatched, judging that the pillage could be but inconsiderable, from a body of profligate wretches, who subsisted mostly by rapine; but upon a return of the party, not a man of the whole body but wished himself in the place of those underlings, at least, upon the late employment; for of thirty wounded, and dead-men,

men which they found there, besides five horses, either dead or so lame that they could not make off ; there were not five of the men that had not a quantity of pearl in little bags, gold uncoined, and several precious stones, and minute curiosities to a very large amount about him.

As for all those who seemed to be mortally wounded, or so shatterd as not easly to recover, they dispatched them out of their misery ; but there was one of their number, who having lost his great toe close to the foot, and received no other damage, they dispatched away one of their body for a camel to bring him off with, he being no ways able to walk at all.

No sooner were the servants returned, with every man his plunder, than they looked upon themselves to be as good men as their masters ; and possibly, might have deserted them too, and provided for themselves other ways, had not Mr H—g—s put it into the head of his own men, that it would be far better for them to dispose of their riches to the merchants for ready money, than to stand the chance

of exposing any such things at any market they might come to, where probably, they not being known, might be taken up as suspected for robbers, and possibly be executed, if for no other reason than for what they had got.

This had the effect Mr *H—g—s* wished for; for the day had not passed, before his servants offering their prizes to sale, and insinuating to the others the advice their master had given them, not a man among them but swallowed the bait so cordially, that he had converted his whole stock into cash, and the remainder into bills payable at such and such places.

The effect of this, was seen in very few days; for that the fellows were almost mad with the little money they had got, nor went any thing forward but gaming: so that both Mr *H—g—s* and the merchants, with the master of the camels, were forced to do their own business; till at length, they began to game for their notes; when fearing to what this might grow, Mr *H—g—s* advised the merchants to game with them, as he himself

himself would ; for they were upon an equal footing with their masters, in their own opinion ; and that they should by all means endeavour to strip them, if they meant any further benefit from them ; but he said, it should be upon condition only, that whatever they won, should be returned to them, when they came to their journey's end.

They had lain by two or three days, for want of hands to prepare for their journeying, and the masters had been obliged to pitch and pack up their tents themselves, when they ever did move. Now should the infection continue, when their journey might end, they could form no guess.

One or other of the masters then joining in the game with the servants, they soon became hail fellow well met with them ; till the diversion became general, whilst the servants played at all, the masters over-reaching them ; at length, in a few days, several of the servants were knocked up, and in about eight days, the whole body of them. The masters of the camels having most ser-

vants, told them, that they must then be sensible, how much more amicable it was to be diligent, and prosecute their duty, than to grow so mad and headstrong, through a turn of good fortune, which was wholly owing to his indulgence to them, even to a degree of neglecting him, who had been the raisng of them, and suffering his affairs to go to ruin.

Had not you been more prudent, added he, to have retained your money in your pockets, till we had returned home again, than to have run the hazard of thus idly casting it away, as you have done? it might in that case, have been the making of yourselves and families, which is now perished and lost to you. You might then have been men, capable of keeping servants yourselves, who are now forced to remain servants to me.

This harrangue had so good an effect upon them, that one and all, condemned themselves for their folly, and so repented of it, that were it to do again they said, they would suffer any torment, rather than of the loss of it, which they then sustained.

Their

Their master seeing them so repentant, then told them, that having won, he believed, to the full amount of all their money himself, if they would from that day, throughout the whole journey, out and home, demean themselves faithfully and diligently in their business, he would then promise them, each his whole money again ; but if they behaved otherwise, he having fairly acquired it, would keep it to himself, and they might starve without it, for aught he cared.

This excellent fortune of the camel keeper's servants, ran from them to others, and so round ; when every master engaging for the same treatment, in case they proved diligent in the journey. The ferment of their blood abated, each obliged himself to his good behaviour, and their delirium subsiding, the journey continued as before.

The wounded moor, who had been brought from the field of battle, had been examined ; as amongst other things, so also to the treasure his companions were masters of ; who replied, that not long before, they had set upon a private

set upon a private set of merchants, to the number of fifteen, with their servants ; who standing in defence of their treasure, had been every one murdered by them, that they were then returning home with their booty, when they hearing of a fine string of horses, the cream of the whole country, destined for *Tunis*, they were resolved to attack, and take them ; but before they could be prepared to fall upon them, they perceived them to be joined to the caravan.

They therefore divided their last plunder, to every man his share, and had watched the caravan for many days, for an opportunity to have fallen upon the horses before, but could meet with none, till that day that they attempted it ; and said, that if they had not sent out to view the place of battle, both himself, and all the bodies, both live and dead, would have been carried off the next night.

The uproar of the servants was but just appeased, before some of the merchants having heard from their servants, what a number of horses Mr *H--g--s* had gain'd by the dismounted *Moors* ; and as few choose

choose to see a benefit pass by their own door without a call, though it can be but of little use to them ; so first one, and then another, throwing out some reflections upon Mr *H—g—s*, for taking them all to himself, where they had equally ventured their lives for them, said, that though they had constituted him their temporary leader, yet they meant not thereby to make him their perpetual lord, and to submit to his pleasure in their properties too.

This gathering force, as it passed from hand to hand, at length reached Mr. *H—g—s*'s ear, before the smothered embers had broke into an open flame ; who being a man of prudence, temper, and well versed in man and things, judged it the wisest course, to mention the affair himself, as what he had before intended to have spoke off, but for the multiplicity of business, his head had been crowded with ; so that taking an early occasion for the purpose, he told them, that it had often been in his mind, when he had not met with an opportunity to let them know what a number of the *Moors* horses had been

been decoyed, by the neighings of his own, into his servants custody, and desired to know what order they would please to give, about the disposal of them.

They were hard wrought, and worn down jades, he said, which for the sake of a little provinder, finding themselves at liberty, by the deaths of their masters, made up to the call of his own high-fed beasts, and might some of them, if they were in proper keeping, be of some service still : some of the company called out for a view of them, upon which, he ordered them to be brought forth ; when their coats stareing, and their ribs rising higher than their flesh, they made so contemptable a figure, that the merchants who were no judges of such cattle, could not but imagine they would be dear enough, at their journeys end, of their keeping so long, and very few of them suspected them to be worthy of a contest, which occasioned their telling Mr. H-g-s in a sort of contemptuous sneer, that if he put any value upon them, he was

very

very welcome to their right and title to them.

He replied, that though the value might be but small that they could be rated at; yet as he was a dealer that way, and might possibly, from some of them, gain the keeping of the rest ; if they were willing he should retain them, he would; but it should be upon the payment of some equivalent, or otherwise, he should not think he had done them justice ; and as he believed himself to be best stocked, both with wines and provisions, of any person in the company ; in ease of theirs, he would at their next day of rest entertain the whole company, both with eatables and drinkables, so much as ever they should choose.

This was so noble an offer, they said, as could no ways be with stood, and, before the audience broke up, they compelled the master of the beasts to calculate, and appoint a day for the rendezvous ; nay, insisted upon his electing a pleasant spot, where they might have shade enough, and that, upon a short day too.

The

The time being fixed, Mr H—g—s, to heighten the elegance of his entertainment, inquired amongst his grooms and servants, who of them all was most expert at shooting fowls, or other game; and for two whole days before the appointed festival, when ever they passed near to woods, bushes, or swamps, sent out three of them with their fowling pieces, to bring in whatever game they could surprise, and recover, to enhance the worth of his collection.

They brought in many kinds of fowls, both land and water fowl; as also a goat of an especial make, and on the last day, an hog, about three parts grown. This with what edibles his camels afforded, in their packs, was to be the entertainment.

He had consulted with his own cook, about setting forth his dinner, in the most superb manner possible, and as for the birds, they were to be some this, some that way dressed, his goat was agreed to be baked in pasties, and his hog to be barbacued, and to these, he added some fish, which he caught the very same morning

morning, in a lake they encamped near to.

Their entertainment was served upon the grouud, with the richest sauces, that the whole collection of sweet-meats, pickels, and preserves of all sorts, whereof Mr H—g—s had a camels load, could possibly contribute to ; but what above all most astonished his company was, the hog dressed whole, which the cook himself cut up, and distributed equally to every man.

Many of the merchants had so sparingly furnished themselves with provisions at first, that the delays upon the road, (more than expected by them) had reduced them already to short allowance ; so that now, edibles were to be had free of cost ; they laid about them, as if they were providing against a siege, several days meat in one ; and then the wine too passing in plenty, they swilled of it so enormously at first, as to render themselves incapable, by the time dinner was over, of drinking any more that day ; so that though Mr H—g—s had allowed ten dozen for the expence of the day, upon casting

casting up his account at night, six of them had scarce been drank ; but as he had concluded upon the ten, and had calculated that he might well spare them ; in order to ingratiate himself with the lower house, he would not return them, but gave the remainder amongst the servants, who for that little well-timed donation, would have ventured their lives for him with pleasure, through the whole journey afterwards.

The sole person displeased at this jovial bout, was the camel keeper ; who having so much for the journey only, and not paid by the day, had lost too many days already he thought, for his profit ; but he was still obliged to submit to another ; for few of the company were able to rise for a great part of the next day, they had laid in such a load upon the foregoing ; nor were many of them better able on the third ; but will they, nill they, the company were most of them ready, and mount they must, without remedy. However, this debauch was not without its utility ; for that it saved many of them a whole weeks provision, which

which they might have wanted at the conclusion of the tour; for scarce a man of those who had so enormously victualled their stomachs, could swallow another mouthful of solids in that time; their whole craving being only after drink.

C H A P. XII.

Arrive at Tunis. Set sail to Minorca.

Ladies get on board a spanish vessel to Naples. Mr H—g—'s kindness to the ladies. Mr Charles grows melancholy. His conjectures. Mr Charles to Mrs E—d—c—b of condolance. Mrs E—d—c—b to Mr Charles of consolation. Mr Charles to Mrs E—d—c—b. Mrs E—d—c—b to Mr Charles.

THEY journeyed on now, under very little interruption, by gentle stages, till they arrived at Tunis; where the

the merchants being to separate to the several countries they were bound to ; and the servants being to be dispersed with their masters ; Mr H—g—s accounted with his own servants for what they had severally lost ; and finding himself to have been a gainer of more than their dividends came to, he gave to each of his *English* grooms, notes, payable in *England*, for their whole money, and paid those of the country whom he was to dismiss there, their full value, distributing the surplus to the rest. This example, was sufficient to set the merchants servants upon them for the like justice ; nor (though very unwillingly from some of them) failed they, at the instigation of Mr H—g—s, to make satisfaction.

They waited here near two months, before they could meet with a vessel to their purpose to land them at *Minorca*, from whence they designed for *England* in a *British* bottom ; but at length obtaining their purpose, they put their cattle on board and set sail ; when, most happily for the ladies, within two days sail of *Minorca*, they hailed a *Spanish* merchantman

merchantman bound to *Naples*, and put the two ladies on board.

Mr *H—g—s*, had before they left *Tunis* for a considerable time, demanded of the ladies, how they were provided for the discharge of their freight, in case he should meet with a passage for them? when *Iris* answering, that she had about sixteen pounds sterling in her pocket, which she brought out with her, but had never since seen; he having been so kind as to have discharged the master of the camels for their land journey, as he had informed her; she returned him abundance of thanks for it, and if he pleased, so far as her small stock would extend to, she would willingly compensate him for it; but he replied, that he enquired not into her ability from the least prospect of self satisfaction, but only to form a guess of her capacity, for discharging both their freights; that in case of a deficiency, he might furnish them with necessary supplies. From the report she had made to him, he added, that he judged her cash to be amply sufficient for their purpose, but lest it should not, he would present her

her with what overplus she might possibly be in need of, in case of any accidents by the way, which at sea were unavoidable. He then gave her in gold coins, to the amount of twenty pounds, which she would by no means have accepted from him, after such abundant beneficence already extended to them, had he not even obliged her to receive it.

Iris would then have given him some note or acknowledgment, not only for this, but also for all that their provisions and necessaries by the way, together with their travelling charges, had cost him; but he replied, that his disbursements were fully made up to him, in that it had been in his power to relieve so worthy objects, as herself and her dependant, from the miseries they were exposed to, in the deserts he had taken them from; and in restoring her to an husband, who no doubt, e'er then, had laboured with the most perplexing anxieties for her sake; but as he should ever be most proud of her's, and her spouse's society, whenever they should return to *England*, he would then give her a note of his abode, at which,

which, no persons upon earth should be received more joyfully by him, than her self and spouse.

Mr H—g—s had behaved with that politeness and generosity to the women, that when he delivered them up to the *Spanish* master, with the strictest charge for their safety and kind treatment, they could not but weep at parting with him; nay, *Iris*, though she left him for her *Charly*, was so inordinate in her lamentations, as scarce to be pacified; and at this their separation it was, that with the utmost good manners, he saluted them both, for the first time.

Though matters during *Iris's* absence, had passed on surprisingly with Mr C—d—t, relative to his trade at *Naples*, and his yearly dividend had amounted to three thousand of our *English* pounds, clear of all deductions; yet this, nor any the most felicitous affair that could have befallen him, without his *Iris*, could turn over his mind to chearfulness, insomuch, that his partner taking notice of it, grew very uneasy at it, and taxed him with an hankering at home: being very much affraid,

that

that he must have thrown up the business himself, which now turned out so profitable to him, without his least personal concern in it: for Mr *C—d—t* by this time, managed the whole, both so punctually, and faithfully, as that it would have broke Mr *N—b—g*'s very heart, to have parted with him; there scarce, as he justly convinced, being a bare possibility, of conjoining himself to a man of equal estimation.

Mr *C—d—t*, to all the remonstrances that Mr *M—b—y* made him, only excused himself under some disorder, now in his body, then in his head, shifting his complaint from one part to another, to stave off his frequent importunities for the cause; and thus his body and limbs were forced to bear the blame, whilst the malady remained in his mind only.

The young gentleman had waited with vast impatience, the arrival of captain *B—f—n—i*, according to the time that his letters from *England*, had fixed for his arrival at *Naples*; but no ship coming or any news of her, from week to week, & from month to month, arriving; all those who

who were concerned in her at Naples, gave her up for lost, or made prize of by the corsairs.

This, as may be readily imagined, was like a death's-wound to poor Mr *Charles*, and threw him into the melancholy I have mentioned ; but still, he thought that there might be hopes, that his *Iris* had missed sailing with the captain, through some accident, and might wait for another conveyance ; which thought having fed pleasurable upon for a while, he would launch out into the most extravagant condemnation of his own stupidity, and convince himself from his own reasonings, that had she missed her passage with the captain, she, for the very first thing she had done, would have wrote him word of it, with the cause ; and either have waited his recommendation of another master to her, or have embarked in the first vessel bound to those parts.

Sometimes he would imagine that *M—s—n* had discovered her intent for sailing, and having followed her to *London*, had surprised, and born her thence, into his own keeping, where the poor soul

I might

might be as miserably lamenting her dis-
appointment and misfortune as himself.

Again, he would fancy the vessel he
failed in to be foundered, and that he saw
her middle-deep, and the water still ri-
sing higher to destroy her ; when invol-
untary he would catch at saving her ; till
having wasted himself under these ap-
prehensions, he would wind up all with
her captivity, and step by step pursue her
through her endless daily drudgery. Not
a single oppression incident to the human
race, but he would apply to her case ;
whilst suffering through them all with
her, he had sunk himself so low, both
in flesh and spirits, that nothing but a
reverse of disposition, could prevent his
falling under a consumption.

In these melancholy circumstances, he
wrote a letter to Mrs *E—d—c—b*, tho'
dreading in her answer the fatal arrow
that must reach his heart, and destroy
him. It was in the words following.

Mr Charles C—d—t.

To Mrs E—d—c—b.

Dear Aunt,

I wait but for your answer, either to sign the period of my present distraction, or my life.

O ! signify to me immediately, either that my *Iris* is living with you, or I am comfortless, and must remain so, for the short glass of life I have yet to run ! Tell me if *M—f—n* has been too many for her : tell me if sickness has detained her from me : tell me the cause, why I have neither heard from nor seen her, for these five months past, or I shall run distracted.

It is with too much reason, I fear, that captain *B—f—n—i* is lost ! O ! sure she sailed not with him ; if so, farewell ! my beloved *Iris*, and I am an undone wretch. Should she be captive on some foreign shore, O ! that the ransom of my life might but procure her liberty, it should be hers but for the joy of one blessed sight, one kiss of my beloved *Iris*.

My advantage here, would intitle her to live like a queen: but why have I been labouring, if not for my *Iris*? unhappy man! just as I could introduce her to an un-interrupted state of felicity, to be bereaved of her at once, nor know the cause, is intolerable!

Alas! what may she now not suffer for my sufferings? she knows they must be great, her own proclaims them so. O! Mrs *E—d—c—b*, transmit me some account of her, that may but administer the least hope of ever seeing my *Iris* more; for ever shall I esteem you amongst the best of women; nor ever more forget the favour to me; on the contrary, should I receive no consolation from you, to my craving soul, believe me to be

Your most disconsolate, and

Most unfortunate nephew,
Charles C—d—t.

P. S. Send me some account of the children.

The above was answered by the next return, by Mrs *E—d—c—b*, with the following.

Mrs *E—d—c—b*,

To Mr *Charles C—d—t*.

Dear Sir,

I Had suffered no little uneasiness in my own mind, at my having received no account as yet from *Naples*, of the safe arrival of my neice, which she promised to send me, so soon as she attained the shore ; but yours coming upon me at that time of my sorrow, has quite cast me into despair.

Not arrived with you as yet, say you ? and the ship believed to be lost ; is too much for me at once to bear ; nor will the weight of my own grief, afford me to pay that due attention, to an husband that so greatly merits it : but I must beseech you not to despair ; the world is wide ; the ship may have met with accidents, and have been obliged to put in somewhere to repair them. We can dis-

cover nothing of distant transactions but what is related to us. The time is not yet so long since her departure, but she may be in safety, though possibly have no opportunity of letting you know it. Let me beg you to bear up against this trial, which I hope, will prove better than you think for ; at least, your over sorrow will not mend it. Remember you have two fine babes as ever eye beheld, who claim your care, and must rely on you for subsistence ; for should you, (taking this disappointment too much to heart) impair your health, and sink into the grave ; will your hard-hearted father cherish them, think you ? or rather will he not laugh at all pretence of their being yours, and spurn them from him to the parish care ? what I may say, will then pass un-regarded by him, and in your loss, must those sweet innocents meet with their undoing.

Should my neice's fate have snatched her from her off-spring, by death untimely ; still in you, the infants may find their loss repair'd ; but should they loose you both, unhappy children ! I shall wish them

with

with you, thereby to escape the woes, they must otherwise be reserved for, without a parent, friend, protector : and cast off to everlasting infamy and indigence.

Consider, dear sir, and bear up with fortitude, against the frowns of fortune. Matters may yet be well ; and yet be you but so, they must be better than a destructive sorrow in you can render them. The ways of providence are most mysterious, nor can we know them till the time appointed ; then dear sir, for your wife's, your childrens, for your own, for my sake, be not inconsolable, but with generous resolution, submit to fate, and in your own, seek your dear infants safety.

Let me hear as soon as possible, I intreat you, that you have subscribed to the advice of her, who dearly loves you, nor ever shall cease to be

Your trusty and obliged aunt,

E—d—c—b.

The above, was succeeded by the following.

Mr Charles C—d—t,

To Mrs Mary E—d—c—b.

Dear Aunt,

I Cast my sheet anchor in the last I sent you ; but that failing me, what have I more to do in life, but to follow my *Iris* to the grave, lamenting.—But hold ! Methinks I hear you name my children ! dear pledges of my *Iris*'s love and mine ! I cannot let those innocents be sufferers through any rashness of mine.—Why am I here then ?—Why leave I not the melancholy place, and return to *England* to my children ?— But then, my *Iris* !— Can I live without her there ? that were even worse than tarrying here without her.

I like your doctrine well, as it convinces me, of what my mind ought of its own accord to have suggested to me ; but O ! to practice, its beyond my power, when I reflect upon the lovely *Iris*, and all those absent joys we might e'er now have tasted, had fate but been so propitious to my wishes,

wishes, as to have returned to my craving arms, the charming she.

I am but too sensible, how little the children have to expect from my father, even knowing them to be mine; and much less, when he may look upon them as spurious, and imposed upon him for grand-children, after my death. These, and these only, will, (if aught can) withhold me from a too precipitate flight to my *Iris*; and as far as manly resolution can avail, I will restrain my sorrows from affecting me mortally: but how you can imagine my *Iris* can live, and yet I not heard from her in upwards of six months, which now it is since she might have landed on our shore, I cannot conceive; nor can I form any argument upon so foundationless principles, as you have collected together: for fully now, I am convinced, that death has overtaken her; the gulph insatiable of the ocean's womb, as swallowed up my *Iris*, never more to rejoin her well loved *Charly*, till death unites us.

O! tremendous thought! never see *Iris* more! it must be so! and I am doomed

to dragg the cumbrous load of life still on,
in favour of our off-spring. O ! send me
notice how they thrive ; their little prat-
tle ; if they know their father. Blest
babes ! I will, in spite of my inquietudes,
still live to be a father to them ; and to
you Mrs E—d—c—b, for your care of
them, a

Loving and generous Nephew,

Charles C—d—t.

P. S. Send me word of every thing a-
bout her departure, and when.

Mrs Mary E—d—c—b,

T Mr Charles C—d—t.

Dear Sir

IT was the happiest moment of my life,
that I employed in reading your last ;
whercin you told me, you would live for
the sake of my dear little care ; but how
much rather would you so resolve, were
you

you to be hourly charm'd with their little prattle as I am, whom they have captivated beyond the degree of own children.

My neice and I sir, upon your letter, went to *London*, to captain *B—f—n—i*, who gave her a bill, upon which, she soon received two hundred pounds. She bought her some cloaths, and in about six weeks time, or little more, sailed with the captain; having in her company a maid-servant, whom she picked up in town; nor can I think she acted imprudently, as the young woman was by trade a mantua-maker, and was extremely desirous of going with her; and as my neice herself was very fond of her company: for besides that, it would have been good company for her by the way, she would have been very handy at working for her, at the end of her voyage, had she ever reached it; and also, considering what a condition at her arrival, my neice must have been in, to have had no one of her own sex, with whom she could have conversed intelligibly. For you could not always have been with her.

Poor woman! she was so overjoyed at

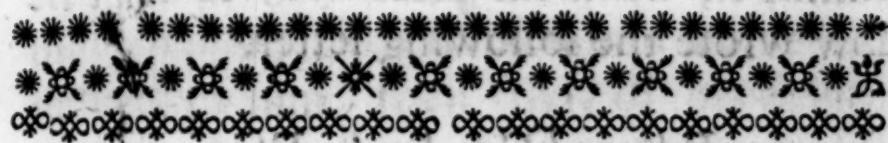
the notice of her departure to you, that I thought she would have grown wild with joy : Alas ! she little knew what she was to come to ; but I hope she is happy, and the poor girl that went with her. I would have you make yourself easy at the loss of her, which sometime or other must have happened to one of you, had it not now proved her fate : for we all mortal, which we all know, though we are too apt to persuade ourselves, that our turn is so far off, as it were never to happen.

I beg of you, dear sir, to be cheary ; be careful of your health, and think, with what delight you will one day be received, by the two most beautiful creatures, that you will find at your return to *England* ; which day, that I also may live to see, is the constant prayer of

Your faithful and humble servant,

E—d—c—b.

CHAP.



C H A P. XIII.

Old C—d—t to Mr Charles for his thousand pounds. Pays the money. Resolves to return home. Mr Charles to his father. Mr C—d—t to Mr Charles. Mr Charles about leaving off trade. Sent for by company. Meets his Iris there. Their transports. Takes lodgings for her. Hears her story. Iris to Mrs E—d—c—b.

TOwards the close of the year, from Iris's departure from London, old C—d—t having received no letter from his son for several months, though he had wrote to know how he went on, and what engagements he had entered into of foreign traffic with his partner; began to think of his thousand pounds with some regret, for letting his son have it; least instead of doubling it, he should only diminish

minish it, upon his pleasures; so that he now wrote the following letter.

Edward C—d—t, Esq;

To Mr Charles C—d—t.

Son *Charles,*

I Wrote to you some time ago, for an account of things, which I expected long since to have received from you; but it is now much the same as if I had; for I shall very soon have occasion for a large sum, upon a very advantageous bargain, when I shall stand in need of the thousand pounds I sent you, to compleat it.

You may imagine it to be what I cannot possibly do without, or I should not have wrote so earnestly to desire it may be remitted to me by the very next post, had it not been what I must insist upon, in order to perfect my agreement: so that no possible delay can be admitted, by

Your loving father,

Edward C—d—t.

Mr

Mr *Charles's* head, having long been pre-ingaged, upon a far more interesting subject to him, than that of his fathers whole estate ; his lost *Iris* ; had not only been the cause of his neglecting the first, but even of slighting the demand of this letter too : he saw very plainly the intent of them both to be, that his father might be upon the sure side with his thousand pound, and not from any immediate want of it : for that, he was satisfied, both from his fathers abundance, and avaricious temper, was only a pretence for fingering his money again ; so that laying this last also aside, whilst he indulged himself over the reflection of his own misfortunes, he not very long after received a third from him, with orders for his immediate repair home.

This indeed, roused up Mr *Charles's* indolence, and put him upon considering, that as the view of his first voyage thither, had been for the more private, and un-disturbed intercourse between his *Iris* and him, and not for the raising a fortune ; so, since it was become impracticable, by her death, to render his first

views

views subservient to that end, it would be more prudent, as well as pleasurable to him, to return as his farther had ordered him ; but as he was not willing to make more haste then good speed therein, he sent him a draught upon a correspondent in *London*, for fifteen hundred pounds ; first, that his father might see how little disappointment it was to him, to pay that sum, and then, to give him cause to repeat his recalling him : for he purposed to be upon his return, before he could possibly expect an order for his stay, which he was satisfied, his father would not omit to send him, so soon as he shoule see that he could live without him.

Mr. *Charles C—d—t.*

To *Edward C—d—t, Esq;*

Honoured Sir,

I Am sorry to hear you should be drove to so great a strait for money ; merchants cannot always answer unexpected demands, though it is their chief care to provide

provide against what they know to become due. However, as money came in, I have not only sent you the thousand, but least that might not answer your purpose, the five hundred pounds too, that I received of you at my first coming over, as it will be no manner of inconvenience to me, whose last years dividend amounted to upwards of three thousand pounds upon our commission, exclusive of our trade.

Since it is your command Sir, notwithstanding the benefits arising from partnership, I am preparing to deliver over my right in the house, to another; that I may, so soon as it can be finished, attend your call, as readily as all other orders, to
Sir,

Your ever dutiful Son,

Charles C-d-t.

Old C—d—t was astonished to see how easily his son had, not only complied with his demand of the thousand pound, wherein he suspected him to be defective; but also that he had returned him the five hundred

hundred also ; so that now, having no claim upon him, he wished his last letter had been burnt before he had sent it, to throw his son out of a money getting way, whereby he might so have increased his fortune ! what could he think of himself ? nay, what would his son, and all the world think of him, if he should refuse to settle something equivalent upon, in present, to what he had deprived him of ? but then, this went so hardly against the grain, with a man of raking disposition, that he resolved to rectify his error immediately, least his son after all should take him at his word, and leave business : so that he omitted not a post, before he wrote the following lines to him.

Edward C—d—t, Esq;

To Mr *Charles C—d—t.*

Son *Charles,*

I Have been considering your obedient answer to my last, and as the profit of your business turns out so amply, I should

should think, if you continued in it a few Years longer, it might be no little help to your fortune ; at least it may supply you till my death, when you will have no farther occasion for it. Prudence, I doubt not, will direct you, therefore, to stay, as well as the inclination of

Your loving Father,

Edward C—d—t.

Mr *Charles* being so restless where he was, since he had given over all hopes of his *Iris*, he was preparing himself for his leaving *Naples*, not that he disliked either the place, his partner, or least of all, the fluency of cash daily rolling in upon him; but merely by shift of place, if possible, to divert the intenseness of his thoughts, from hanging so fixedly upon his *Iris*.

It was merely, that Mr *N—le—g* might not look upon him as a man of no steadiness and solidity, that he had so long deferred to promulge his Intention to him ; but now he had come to a determination, to defer it no longer then till the

the next day, and then to produce his father's letter, for his justification in it.

As he sat musing upon the event of this proceeding, with both head and heart full of scruples and surmises, but still none of them subversive of his purpose for returning to *England*; a message was brought to him by a sailor, whom *Iris* had taken a peculiar fancy to, and had requested of the captaln to be the bearer of it; that at such an alehouse, near the shore, there were some company, who desired to speak with him, about business of no little importance.

Mr *Charles*, who could conceive no occasion, that any one could have for drawing him forth, after the day was closed, and especially to an House, though well noted, that he had never been in in his days; began to scruple attendance upon the summons, ordering the fellow to return for answer, that he was very busy; but should be at home most part of the next morning, where whoever might want him, would have the opportunity of seeing him; for that he chose not to come out that night.

The

The sailor was ordered not to mention their being any woman there : but being enjoined privacy in no other matter, replied, that one of the gentlemen who wanted him, was just then landed from *Spain*, his name was *Da C—s—t—o*, and that he heard him upon his landing say, that he must see *Don C—s—t—o* that night, upon business of the greatest consequence, and that he having company waiting, could not leave them.

Though Mr *Charles* was not a little fearful of some mischief by the way, yet as it might be business of the house, that he was wanted upon, he ordered the fellow to stay, and conduct him to the gentleman,

Mr *Charles* clapped on his sword, and furnishing himself with a brace of pistols, gave the word to the sailor to lead the way, and followed him ; resolving to shoot him through the head, if he should offer to turn about upon him.

At brisk walking they were not long on their march ; when arriving at the house, the sailor opening an inner door, stood with it in his hand, whilst Mr.

Charles

Charles entered the room ; but upon sight of two women, he was so confounded as to be ready to drop; verily believing that one of them intended to lay a child to him, and that the gentleman he saw with them was an officer to secure his Person ; but upon his entrance, the gentleman, as *Iris* had before intrusted him to do, withdrawing, he was now alone with the two women, one of whom desired him to sit down.

There is somewhat so thoroughly affecting in the person one loves, as is inexpressible ; for not a motion, gesture, or a word can pass, that delights not, beyond comparison, with those of others ; so in this case, no sooner had he been desired to sit, but the very sound was productive of its accustomed idea, and forced his *Iris* upon his recollection.

He started, but approached her, in order for the enlivening tone once more ; when seeing him thus surprized, perhaps sir, said she, you may not know me ; but I had formerly the honour of an intimacy with you. He professed he did not ; but her voice so cleaved to his very soul,

soul, that he could almost swear it to be that of a lady, whom of all her sex, he held in the highest estimation : then taking up the candle, madam, said he, will you forgive my inquisitiveness ; I have a further interest than you may imagine in a nearer inspection of you.

Looking thus earnestly in her face; alas! said she, am I so changed, that my ever dear *Charly* cannot know me? but the words were scarce uttered, before (casting the light from him) he fell upon her neck in an extasy. My ever lovely *Iris*! said he, is it thee thy self? or in thy room, some phantom to deceive my senses? O! no, it is my *Iris*, thy flushing cheeks proclaim that mutual warmth, my *Iris* ever glowed with in my arms; for now I live my dear, in thy embraces.

Their transports were so vigorous, as not to conclude in a short time, but being finished, he then asked her what had befallen her since she left her aunt; assuring her, that both her aunt and himself, had long given her over for lost, the ship she sailed in, having never since been heard of.

She

She had a very long story to tell him she said, at some suitable time; but in the interim, desired that the Spanish captain might be called in, that she might discharge her passage to him in his presence; and that the captain might receive his thanks also, with her own, for his civilities to her.

Mr *Charles* then asked Miss *W—d—m*, how she did? saying, he heard that his *Iris* had embarked with a servant from *London*; but *Iris* replied, no more a servant by your leave my dear, a sister rather, at least in affliction; but so true a friend, that I can never treat her as other than a companion and a sister; for had it not been for this lady, thy *Iris* had never added this happy day to the calender of her mortality; nay, but for whose kind aid, I could never have survived a single week, of the several scores that we have been in exile together.

The captain now returning, they supped together; after which, having paid him his freight, Mr *Charles* presented him very handsomely, and thanking him for his care of the ladies, he retired to his ship.

As

As Mr *Charles* chose not to take his *Iris* home to his partner's house, he took a lodging for her at the house they were at for that night, till he could otherwise provide for her, more to his satisfaction; but durst not stay that night with her, for fear of busy tongues and eyes, that might have wrought disadvantageously for him.

Mr *Charles* was stirring early, and called at the ladies lodgings; when hearing they were not up, and suspecting they wold be late that day, he strolled about in quest of an apartment for them. He pitched upon one of no small price, tho' not so elegantly furnished as he coveted: so that intending some alteration, he gave orders for their being in readiness by the next day at noon, and determined upon the ladies continuance till then in their first quarters; but when *Iris* and her companion came to view their new apartment next day, they took it for a paradise, they were so charm'd with it.

Here, Mr *Charles* having room enough, he bedded with his new revived bride; (for such she truly was to him, who had no other notion but of her death, till she

K re-appeared

re-appeared to him) but when she came to a repetition of her fate, with Miss upon the planks, and their travel many weeks in the deserts, subsisting upon wild fruit and herbs, with water, only when chance casually cast it in their way; his very soul re-travelled every step; felt every pang, and melted with compassion for their sufferings; but no sooner had they brought themselves under the protection of the generous *H—g—s*, than, exulting at their prosperity, he vowed, that if ever he lived to revisit the *British* shore again, the first of his acknowledgments should be paid to that worthy man, whom he would gratify to the extent of his ability.

Mr *Charles* having thus happily recovered his *Iris* again, had no more thoughts of bidding adieu to his partnership; but then, how to come off with his father, for not returning according to his late order, he knew not; but as for some time he was secure, and might excuse himself upon the difficulty of making up their accounts, and receiving in his monies; he told *Iris* how the case stood with him,
and

and entered into consultation with her, for the protraction of their society together ; but no sooner had they resolved all that they could collect, into no more than Mr *Charles* had at first purposed ; than the very next post brought him the last above letter from his father, which re-instated both their tranquillities.

The next thing was, either for himself or *Iris* to write to her aunt, an account of her being still living, and arrived with her husband at *Naples* ; which they doubted not, would even add years to the life of the old woman, who was so extremely fond of her niece : but who should be the author of this epistle, being for some time the debate, it devolved upon *Iris*, as the most assured testimonial she could give her aunt of her subsisting, would be, the having it from under her own hand.

This therefore she undertook, in manner following.

Mrs *Lucinda C—d—t.*

To Mrs *E—d—c—b.*

Dearest Aunt,

SUSpect not this to be the work of a phantom or spirit; for I hereby assure you, under my own hand, that this comes from your neice *Lucinda C—d—t*, who was dead, but is now revived again; who has been lost, but now finds herself in the most desirable enjoyment of her beloved *Charly*. To inform you of the countries I have lately passed through; of the perils I have undergone, and the dangers I have sustained, during several months travel among wild beasts, and men little less savage, would be a task I have now no leisure nor will to undertake; but shall reserve it, till we shall be so happy as to meet face to face. Let it therefore suffice that I am now with my *Charly*, and live like any princess.

I must desire you dear aunt, in answer to this, to inform me how you wear, and how my dear babies fare; what of the common

common distempers they have had ; how they grow, and every particular about them both ; but must again and again insist, that you take all possible care of my dear *Iris's* face, in case of the small pox, or other distemper that may affect it : for if I have any guesſ, (and a letter of yours to my dear *Charly*, seems to concur with me) her complexion will be excelled by few young ladies, if any.

As for my own skin, which (without the charge of vanity) I might once have commended as none of the worst, it is now as sun-burnt as a gipsie's, freckled all over like a turkey's egg, and so scorched and tanned, that it more resembles a neat's hide, than that of your late neice *C--d--t* ; but this however, moves me not, since I find myself not a whit less acceptable to my dear *Charly* : but I shall nevertheless, make the experiment of some of this country's washes, which I am assured, are excellent for the recovery of a lost complexion ; for, in my mind, beauty is the ornament, next to virtue, that our sex may best boast of.

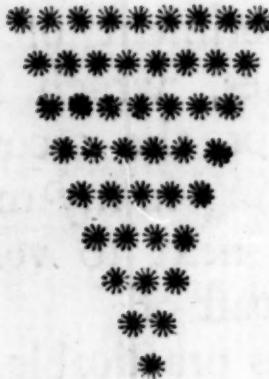
I wish it was practicable, to have you

and my dearest children over here, were it but to see how exquisitely I live here, with my dear Miss *W—d—m*, the partner once of all my sorrows; but now of every blessing the world can well afford me: for upon representing her usefulness to my *Charly*, and what a regard I have for her, that dear man has permitted me to retain her as my companion only; so that her life is no ways disagreeable to her.

O! aunt, I could let my pen run on for ever in the praises of my *Charly*, but must remember, that I am also to conclude myself,

Your most happy neice,

Lucinda C—d—t.



C H A P.

C H A P. XIV.

A fine house taken for Iris. Mr Charles lives with her. Iris has courtiers. She is breeding. Mr Charles furnishes an expedient. Leaves her son at nurse. Their house called the nunnery. They both oppose marriage. Mrs E--d--c--b retrnrs to M--d--n. Says the children are her friends in Scotland. Account of Mr W—lls catastrophe.

NO sooner had *Iris* and Miss *W—d—m—n* learnt to converse freely in the *Italian* language, than Mr *C—d—t*, thinking himself under too much restraint in visiting his lady, subject to the overlooking of the people of the house, who would be further prying into their liberties, than he chose they should ; in order to a more unconfined way of living, took

a noble large house for the ladies ; and after some short time, told his partner, that taking a peculiar satisfaction in the company of his country folks, he found the inconvenience was so great, of returning late home a nights from them, that he had determined to take an apartment in their house, for himself, where he might lie, whenever he should stay late, or not choose to come home : so that whenever he was not within by such an hour, he said, he should desire them not to expect him that night ; for that it was a very great confinement upon him, to be obliged to leave his company at a particular time, or to incommod some of his family.

Now it was, that Mr *Charles* and his lady began to enjoy themselves, with more latitude than ever before ; nor indeed was there aught wanting to the completion of their felicity ; for as his business brought him in an ample maintenance, he having not that reason for scraping together a fortune, as most other men in trade have, and all passing for the lady's expences, he could be no ways deemed

deemed extravagant, though he advanced to his last penny; so that no family in the city of *Naples* lived more elegantly than his own; without the knowledge of any one soul (save Miss *W—d—m*) or of even the servants themselves, that he was at all concerned in it.

This way of living, drew the eyes of several young gentlemen towards the lady; nor had *Iris* been long settled in her grandeur, before application was made to her for marriage; but her reply was, both to this, and several other afterwards, that she had left her own country solely for her health sake, and was determined not to marry till her return thither again.

In short, Mr *C—d—t* and his lady living so agreeably together, had it not been for their children, would but seldom have cast a thought towards *England*; but in their third year, she proving with child, they were at a pause how to behave under this circumstance.

Various were the methods proposed for secreting this great belly in the first place; how to discharge it in the second place; and then, which way the infant should

be disposed of, at last; so as not to rise up in evidence of their stolen pleasures: for that would have disconcerted their whole scheme.

Miss *W—d—m* was for having *Iris*, when she could stir about no longer undiscovered, to take to her room, under pretence of illness, till she was delivered and up again; but what then become of the infant? was demanded: which as it could not be resolved, the notion of it dropt of course.

At length, Mr *C—d—t* projected a tour for the two ladies, about the country for some miles, that they might look out for some snug lodging, where they might not fear to trust the good woman of the house, without mentioning names, that a lady, whose marriage was concealed, wanted to lie in privately, and also, a good nurse for her child; who upon proper care taken of it, should be suitably rewarded for her pains.

This promising most success, was soon reduced to practice; and in order to avoid all inquisitiveness of their own servants, who must have been masters of the

the secret, by one means or other, had they attended them; Mr C—d—t hired a carriage for them, under pretence that it was sent by a friend of *Iris's*, to fetch her and Miss, to spend a few days with her in the country; and that neither of their own servants might wonder at their being left behind, a footman was also hired for the purpose, and their departure was given out for two or three days before-hand; till at length, the hour for the conveyance to come arriving, the ladies being prepared, *Iris* told her footman, that her friend having sent one of her own to attend her, it would seem impertinent to take him, and so ordered him to stay behind; then stepping into the coach, before the servants could get an opportunity of speaking together, they moved off; by the way (so soon as out of the city) taking up Mr C—d—t, who had walked before them.

They made a tour of four days, in which time, at *N—d—l—i*, they suited themselves to their own hearts desire, with both a lodging and nurse, in one. The old lady, (who had been bred a gentle-

woman, though then in low circumstances) after having let her lodgings for the purpose they had informed her of, upon seeing them look genteely, and asking after a nurse, offered herself in that capacity, in case they would make it worth her while; and told them at the same time, that to prevent all inquiries in the neighbourhood, (as she had many good relations, who sometimes called in upon her) if they pleased, she would give out to any one who should suspect such a transaction in her house, that it was a kinswoman of hers, who chose to lie in there under her direction.

All things being thus perfected to their wish, an ample allowance was promised for the child, to be paid either by monthly or quarterly anticipations, as she should desire it.

Being thus provided of conveniences, when the time came that *Iris* must necessarily withdraw; pretending a tour with her friend, she left her family all behind her, (save Miss) and for that her return would be uncertain, having such a number of places to visit; she told them
she

she had desired the favour of Mr *C--d--t*, to provide them with what money would be wanting for their maintenance, in the mean time.

In due course of reckoning, *Iris* became the mother of a fine son; nor could any lady be better accommodated, or more to her satisfaction in every respect, than herself; scarce such another old lady being to be procured in all *Italy*, as the landlady, into whose hands her good fortune had cast her: so that having received such evidence of her skill and abilities, relative to herself and the infant, during the month; she was the less scrupulous of committing the child intirely to her management, when she left it; which she now did, returning to her house at *Naples* again, as good a maiden as she left it.

Great bellies being now so readily disposed of, and their produce so charily provided for, Mr *Charles's* and his lady made little hesitation at troubling the old lady, once, at least, in every year, for eight years next succeeding: so that the good woman kept now, two maid servants,

vants, and had not only her hands full of employment, but her house full of Mr C—d—t's progeny too, who at the rate of so much per annum, for their several boards, brought her in a fine annual revenue, and increased her fortune exceedingly.

Miss W—d—n had several very good offers for marriage, during her stay at *Naples*; but so closely was she become linked in affection to *Iris*, who had assured her she should be welcome to her as long as she lived; and had all along proved so kind and beautiful to her; that she had put them all aside; insomuch, as by their constant opposition to the addresses that had been made to them, they were marked down by their acquaintance for old maids, and their house had gotten the appellation of a nunnery.

Old C—d—t, had for a long time been more sparing of his letters to his son, perceiving that he could do without him, and still went on in heaping bag to bag, mortgage to mortgage, and field to field; but his son laid but little by in *Italy*: for besides the genteel manner that his lady lived

lived in, his family yearly increasing, he had forced sometimes to make hard shift, that both ends might fairly meet: till about the tenth year of his residence there, when his children still augmenting in number, as he was about considering with himself, in what manner he might best retrench his expences, his partner dying, the whole business fell into his hands.

Several were the follicitations made to him, to come in partners to so good and established an house; but he, having now such a demand for money, and having from almost his first commencement of his own partnership, transacted the whole concern by himself, would give no ear to them; though he went so far, with a young fellow who had been for some years under him, and had behaved himself very unblameably, as to promise him, whenever himself should leave *Naples*, by the death of his father, that then he would write for him to all his correspondents, and deliver up the whole house and business to him.

Being now the sole person concerned in interest, and the whole profits devolving

ing upon him; instead of retrenching in his expences, he even augmented them considerably; enlarged his domestics, kept his coach, and in short, lived as elegantly there, as a man in *England* could do, with eight or ten thousand pounds a year. Notwithstanding which, he never in the least point neglected his business; but was altogether as assiduous in it, as if he had been labouring each day for his dinner before he could eat it.

The children in *England*, were now grown into their teens, and had been some time at school; (for Mrs E--d--c--b, within few months after *Iris* had left her, removed into *Gloucestershire*, where she lived several years) till about the fourteenth year of their age, she returned to *M--d--n* again, where she took a little house, and gave out, that the children were a relations in *Scotland*, whose wife dying, he had entrusted them to her management; and as for her neice, all the account she would ever give of her, when demanded of her by those of her former acquaintance, was, that she went servant many years before into *Yorkshire*; but what

what might have since become of her, she knew not : and though the children went very neat and clean, she never clad them in any finery, but kept them close to their schooling.

There was a correspondence by letter, kept up every year or two, between *Iris*, and her aunt ; but as such letters were, for the most part, but a sort of how do you's, I have omitted them, save one from Mrs *E—d—c—b*, in answer to a former of her neice's, giving some little insight to the state of affairs, as they then stood.

Mrs *Mary E—d—c—b*,

To Mrs *Lucinda B—t—t*.

Dear Neice,

NOthing proving so delightful to you as the blessings you mentioned in your last, can come to my knowledge without, in some degree, having the same effect upon me. What an unhappiness it is, that Mr *Charles* ever went to

to Naples? alas! my dear, could his father but have suspected it to have been the only way in the world for making him happy, with such a poor girl as you was for his wife; how forreign had such a thing been from his thoughts? but I have, throughout my little experience in life, ever observed, that whilst such worldly wretches as my master C—d—t, are making their calculations for the time to come, all of their own side, without the least consideration for the miseries of others, so they can but please themselves; when they seem I say, to be most certain of their own wisdom, and laugh at the rest of the world for fools, then it is, (as if purposely done to confound their devices) that providence interposes to the frustrating their views, and turning them topsy-turvy.

One might have imagined, my dear, that you and your husband, might have been settled by this time at G—pe hall, but whether ever I shall now live to see that day, is uncertain; for my master, o' my conscience, grows younger and younger, I think. I saw him the other day in
the

the town, when one would not haye taken him to be more than forty ; nay, he was about courting a widow that is lately come amongst us, who keeps her coach, and goes for a vast fortune : but she would not have him : so that I am glad to hear you like *Italy* so well, or had you set your heart upon living here, you might be disappointed.

I can assure you, neice, for your comfort, that both my children have had the small pox, and though *Charly* is a little pitted, (not so but they will wear out I believe) yet, my dear little *Iris*, will be no less beautiful than ever ; not having the least scar or blemish from them. She reads to me every night, and works at her needle to a miracle ; and *Charly* has almost gone through Mr *M—t—r's* school and is a great scholar he says.

I have one more peice of news to tell you, child, and hereby we may see the general end of the wicked. Your cosin *W—lls* was hanged last *Wednesday*, for a murder and robbery, committed in his own house. The case was this : At our last fair was a twelvemonth, a grazier who

who was come hither to buy lean cattle, lodged at *W—ll's* house, the night before the fair; and having near two hundred pounds about him, gave it to Mrs *W—lls* to lay by for him, till he went to the fair the next morning.

He received it from her again the next morning, and went; but cattle turning out dearer than he expected, and yet the market being fully stocked, he would not buy that day; but hoping to have them cheaper the next, he returned to his inn, and re-delivered the money to *W—lls* himself, till the next day, fearing any accident might happen to him in the night, that he might loose it by.

From that day, till about six weeks ago, the grazier never was heard of; but then, his son, (a man grown) coming as his father had done, and upon the same errand to our fair, he lay at the same house the night before too, having his dog with him.

In the morning early the son went through the horse-yard into *W—ll's* back yard, where the dung-hill lies, and where stands the privy-house; that looks out upon

upon the dung-hill ; when as the son was setting to ease himself, his dog fell earnestly to scratching in the dung-hill, till he had made a hole large enough to bury himself in.

The young man seeng how vehemently the dog laboured, and observing him to whine whilst he wrought, as if desirous of coming at something, sat longer then he had occasion, to see the issue of it ; expecting some vermin or other to start presently, when he should have a piece of diversion ; but it all at last terminated in a sort of rotten rag, that the dog brought to his master, as he sat upon the vault.

The young fellow would have driven him away with it, not chusing to defile his fingers ; but the dog still kept whining, and extending his nose to him with it ; till at length he took it from him, and shaking of the dung found it to be the very money bag that his father that time twelvemonth had carried his money to the fair in.

The young man took some time to consider, as he walked backwards and forwards

forwards in the yard ; not a soul in the house being up yet ; but could not conceive how that very bag, with his father's name upon it, should come there, unless his father had been robbed there, neither was it likely he thought that he should have met with his death by other hands, than those who had robbed him.

He made no stir however in the house ; but waiting till the gates were open, he inquired out a magistrate, and went to him. He waited till he was stirring, and desired the speech of him privately, when he related the death of his father, at last fair ; the finding of his purse, and the means by which he found it, from whence he said, he had a violent suspicion, that his father had received his death in that house.

The magistrate happening to espouse the thing, was fully of the same mind too and desiring the young man to take no notice of having been with him, assured him, that if he would be quiet, and leave the whole to him, he would answer for it, he detected them, in case there was any thing in his surmise.

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He promised conformity to the justices request, and about an hour afterwards the justice sent for Mrs W—lls, to speak with her, who, as it was fair day, imagining he was to have company to dinner with him, and had sent to her about dressing it, as he had the last fair day, went to him with all alacrity.

The justice was in his study, and ordered her in to him, then charged his servant to shut the door after her, when rising from his seat, and clapping fast hold of her arm, woman said he, how durst you, on this very day twelvemonth, be accessory to the death of a farmer in your own house?

The woman turned as pale as death, and was going to deny the fact ; when the justice replied, it would be to little purpose to fish for an excuse, to a fact he could so directly prove upon her, and her husband, but told her, that if she would ingeniously relate all the circumstances of the murder to him, he would shew her what favour he fairly could ; though whether she did or not, he must commit her to goal directly.

Mrs

Mrs W—lls then trembling, fell on her knees before him, and confessed the fact; but insisted that she having delivered the man his money the morning after he had left it with her, no sooner had she told her husband of it, then she thought he would have knocked her brains out; but receiving it himself from the man next night, he declared he would murder and dispose of his body that night, and obliged her to assist him in the execution. They did so, she said, & she verily thought she should have died herself, when her husband forced her to assist at midnight, in carrying the corps down stairs, into an hovel where usually kept faggots; and there, she said, her husband carried the corps, and piled some foggots over the place.

The justice ordered her husband to be brought, when she replied, that he was gone to S—f—d, to get an helper in his stables, it being a fair day; but would be back presently; whereupon the justice ordered the constable and one or two assistants, to watch his return upon the bridge, and to secure him; but by no means

means to mention for what fact, or that his wife was then in custody.

It was not long before they met with, and brought him ; when the justice putting the question to him, about the murder, he vapoured and wished the best man in the world durst offer to lay such a thing to his charge, he'd trounce him severely for it ; but the justice put an immediate stop to his high spirit, by assuring him, his wife had confessed the whole and shewing him the very purse that the poor man's money was in. He then stood speechless a while, till taking the bag in his hand, and recollecting it, he fell into a passion, and cursed his hand that had not rather burnt it, than buried it in the dung-hill, whence he never expected it would have risen up against him.

They both being then sent to goal; our session caine on about three weeks ago, when he was condemned ; but she was acquitted, upon some quibble in the law, that I am not mistress of ; though she was equally concerned with him.

My beuryt Love to your husband and Miſſ.

Your loving Aunt, L—d—b.

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L

CHAP.

C H A P. XV.

Mrs. E—d—c—b's death. Charly and Iris destitute. Mr C—d—t retrieves them from the parish. Iris a great favourite. Her master attempts a rape upon Iris. Rescued by Charly, who almost kills him. Mr Charles and family return. Visit Mr H—g—s. He visits his father. Hears of his children. Parson's lectures are reconciled. His father dies. Marries Miss to Mr H—g—s. Gives her a fortune.

IN the sixteenth year that Mr Charles had been in *Italy*, - towards the close of the year, Mrs E—d—c—b died of an appoplexy, as she was returning one day from market; when the two children finding themselves destitute of all future subsistence, began to enquire one of another

other, who were their relations, and friends, that they might make application to them for a maintainance, for having hitherto lived so happily with my dame, as to have had little occasion for a prior inquiry of that sort, they were both so wholly in the dark as to their parentage, that they knew not who to apply to for information.

They subsisted however, upon what little cash my dame had in the house at her decease, for about a month ; till their stock being exhausted, and themselves wholly abandoned, they must have starved, if the neighbours had not taken compassion of them, and thinking it great pity, that two such fine young creatures should come to ruin, applied to a magistrate to pass them into their own country : for they had all heard, that they were of *North-Britain*, but could not discover of what county, or place there. Mr. H—v—y was the magistrate applied to ; but he being that afternoon to meet Mr. C—d—t, upon a private session, requiring two justices, ordered them to be brought before

them both, when they would consider what order to make in their case.

They came accordingly; but the very sight of two such charming youths as they appeared to be, and so well apparelled too, in such distress, moved their commiseration, beyond the force of ordinary objects in like circumstances; insomuch, that they examined them most tenderly: for observing them both to weep, they bid them not to be discouraged; they were not brought before them, they said, for any misdemeanor; but only that a proper provision might be made for them, and to put them into a way of subsisting.

Beginning then with the young gentleman, they asked his name; to which he replied, *Charly*. *Charly!* what? they said. He told them that at school they called him *Charly E--d--c--b*. They demanded whether the young woman was his sister? He answered that she was. As to his age, it was seventeen next birthday, and her's, she said, was the same: for that Mrs. *E--d--c--b* had told them they were twins. As to their parents, the first person they had any knowledge of in

in life was Mrs. E--d--c--b; nor remembered they that any person had ever called them his children; nor could they say they had ever heard where they were born; but remembered they had lived in Gloucestershire, before, but knew they were not born there, well remembering another house they had lived at before, but knew not where it was.

In short, the neighbours were all examined, with whom Mrs. E--d--c--b had usually conversed; but not a soul could give the least other account of the children, than that they had heard her say, they belonged to a relation in Scotland, though they had never heard her mention their surnames.

Well! Mr. H--v--y said, that if they could find out no other settlement they had, that the parish where they were found must maintain them, and was giving instructions for an order, to the overseers for that purpose.

The young folks, being now of age to reflect upon their own conditions, bewailed themselves prodigiously; insomuch, that Mr. C--d--t, though not over com-

passionate in his own nature, could not restrain from pitying them. Considering then with himself, whether there could be no way found to preserve two such objects, as seemed to him so highly unworthy of that ignoble fate, from the parish; he asked *Charly*, whether he could write, and cast accompts; or had been bred to any scholarship? To this he replied, that he was a pretty good master of his pen, in both ways; and as for his scholarship, he had read **HORACE** and **VIRGIL**, and had made some progress in the *Greek* also; whereupon, Mr. C—d—t told him; that as he had been some months without a clerk, if he could write warrants, mittimasses, and transcribe the parish accounts, and such other business as he should employ him in that way, he would take him home with him, and try him a little while; when if he found him honest, and diligent; he would retain, and provide for him.

Charly replied, that he should for ever be obliged to him. That as for his capacity for his business; as no industry of his own should be wanting, he hoped, under

under his instructions, to be as able as another to perform it; but as to what he could engage for, his application and fidelity, he would promise him, he should have no reason to find fault with him.

My pretty maiden, said Mr. C—d—t, what have you been mostly employed in? she replied, reading, writing, and needle-work. Rough works? or those of a more curious sort? said he. She replied, both; or were there any stitches scarce, that she was not mistress of. Have you been used to what we call wrought works, such as beds, and chairs, and other furniture? said he. She was mistress of the several stitches, she said, though she had never performed any great works that way.

Brother! said Mr. H—v—y, it's a thousand pities, but such a young creature, so well instructed, should be received into some good place, and not committed to the workhouse. I don't intend she shall, said Mr. C—d—t. My wife before she died, had undertaken one of the most curious peices of work, as every one who has seen it says, that this part of the king-

dom can produce: for she was mighty fond of those things; but she dying before it was near completed, my housekeeper has often lamented, that she never could light of a servant, who was any ways adequate to it. Now, added he, if this girl can but go on with it, when she sees it, I will put her under my house-keeper's care till she has finished it, and if I find her a capable, willing, and diligent girl, I will afterwards, either keep her myself, or secure her another good place, before she leaves me.

The young ones were exceeding full of gratitude, to such a patron, as would preserve them from the work-house; that, being what of all things they most dreaded; and little *Iris* made abundance of promises, how good she would be, if his worship would but please to try her: so that in short, he ordered them both home to his house, and to wait there till he came.

No man was ever more delighted with two servants, than Mr. C—d—t with this brother and sister; and the house-keeper, who was a great favourite of the old gentleman's, was so charmed with *Iris*,

Iris, not only for her work, whereat she had an exceeding nice hand, but for her sobriety, diligence, and sweetness of disposition, as to be ever copious in her commendation of her, a man might have travelled the whole kingdom over, she said, before he had been master of so deserving a young creature; so that *Iris* became such a favourite, as often to be familiarly spoken to by her master, who would frequently make her bring her work to him, and shew him how she proceeded, and then drop her sixpence or a shilling, for being so good a girl.

Beauty, is one of the most dangerous play-things in nature, since every repetition of the most innocent acts, have such momento's behind them, as inspire the agent to more; till inflaming the soul with unquenchable desires, possession alone can abate them.

This innocent young creature, had now served Mr. C—d—t for nine months, and by her sedulous application to her business, had pretty near finished her job. Her master had at first, thought her pretty, but the frequency of his visits to her, and

now and then kissing her, had excited in him such passionate desires for her, as his reason was not able to subdue. He became more and more fond of her daily, insomuch, as to be scarce easy in her absence. He had even made her some offers; but had been always repulsed; till *Iris* even avoided his company, as much as possible, and would work sometimes in one room, sometimes in another, that he might not find her; nor ever cared she to be alone with him, if possible; but would form any excuse, for being near the house-keeper, under whose wing she believed herself secure.

Mr. ~~C—d—t~~ perceiving himself so slighted, by a girl who was so much obliged to him, and whom he hoped, for her own sake, to have found even proud, of the embrace of her master, was determined, if she understood no better, even to force her to a compliance with his desires; but then, unwilling to be frustrated in his purposes, and doubting his ability to overcome her by violence, he applied himself to an old *Scotchman*, who had served him many years in almost every capacity,

capacity, and upon whom, he doubted not but he might depend, for his aid, at the critical juncture. Having brought him fairly into it, the business now was, to set *Iris*, in some convenient situation, and then, disposing of the family, as judiciously, out of the way as possible, to perpetrate his intended debauchery.

Villains who are but diligent and active, seldom wait long, for an opportunity to practice their resolutions; thus it happened here: for the servants being most of them employed in the hay field, *Charly* was sent upon a message to a neighbouring justice, whilst the *Scotchman* and his master, who had discovered *Iris* to be working in her garret, were now intent upon this opportunity, for gaining the old gentleman's purpose; they therefore, rushing in upon her, (as no time was to be lost) with very little ceremony, cast her upon the bed: the poor creature struggling, and screaming, all that she was able, notwithstanding their endeavours to prevent it.

Charly had not gone above a quarter of a mile upon his walk, before he bethought

himself of a book, that he had promised to lend the justices clerk, and least his master should think him long absent, ran home as fast as he could to fetch it; but coming up the field behind the house, into which *Iris's* window looked; it being then open, he plainly heard his sister's voice, crying murder! murder! and help! several times.

The young fellow, who loved his sister as his own soul, ran into the house, snatched up the kitchen poker, and flew up stairs with it, as if he had been mad; which so surprized the cook, who was the only servant within doors, that she made the best of her way after him, for fear of some mischief in his head; but *Charly* having the heels of her, had entred the room, just in the instant to save his sister's honour: for seeing her legs at one side of the bed, and some one indecently behaving to her, he stood not upon ceremony, but with a smart blow on the head with his poker, prevented further mischief from his master; and the *Scotchman* having hold of his sister's hands, over her head, at the other side of the bed, he fell upon

upon him, and beat him so severely, that the fellow fell down and begged for mercy.

By this time, the cook appeared; but there was no reason for words, to the justification of *Charly*; she already seeing too much cause to commend him. She assisted him however, in dragging her master from the bed, to the floor, whilst the poor girl lay trembling, under the greatest agonies imaginable; but the cook comforted her, and taking her down stairs with her, left both master and man unregarded, whilst she should have recovered the unhappy *Iris*.

Charly, it is true, accompanied his sister to the kitchen; but fell into a fit there directly: so that the cook was frightened to death, at being alone in such a distracted family. She rung the dinner bell therefore, as loud as she could, which surprising the servants in the field, at such an unusual hour, brought them home, for fear of fire or thieves.

The cook sent one or two of the men up to *Iris's* room, whilst she kept some of the maids to her assistance; and by degrees,

degrees, recovered the two young ones; but poor *Iris* was in such terrors, that she was not herself for some time after.

The men returning, reported their master to be dead, or very near it: so that immediate help was to be had for him, and the surgeon pronouncing his case desperate, the *Scotchman*, who by this time was just able to crawl down stairs, insisted, that his master and he only went up to see *Iris's* work, when *Charly* stealing up behind them, with intent to rob his master, first knocked his master down, and then fell upon him with the poker. This the *Scotchman* swearing to, *Charly* was to be committed, till it should be known whether his master should live or die; notwithstanding all the circumstances to be proved by other servants.

Iris finding her brother was committed, ran to the justice, and insisting that she was equally guilty of her master's hurt with her brother, she signed it, and was committed with him. *Mr. Charles's* correspondent in town, who had constantly, for many years, paid to my dame *E—d—c—b's* order, twenty-five

five pounds quarterly, having had no demand upon him for the two or three last quarters, had some time before, wrote to Mr. *Charles*; and withal, that he feared his accountant was (for that reason) dead. This surprized Mr. *Charles* very much; but far more so his *Iris*, when he had reported it to her: for what would become of her children? she said; they would be cast into the wide world, friendless, and penniless; neither knowing whom to apply to, or whitherto to fly for succour.

This lay so heavily upon her spirits, as that she forthwith prevailed with her husband to make a trip to *England*, in search of them; but least he should thro' the rigidness of his father's temper, lack proper favour from him, or be obliged to return to *Naples*; he would not wholly part with his house; therefore taking in the young gentleman (his clerk) partner with him, agreed, that in case of his returning again, he should account with him for a moiety of the profits; but if not, that he should retain the whole house to himself.

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He brought over near ten thousand pounds with him, and with his whole family, both of children and servants, hoped to have landed at *London*, where he could have left them in some lodging, till he had heard how things went in the country; but the wind blowing them about for some days, nor being able to gain the channel; they were at length, obliged to run up the river *Exe*, to save themselves, and landed as they best could, to prevent further mischief.

They inquired what part of *England* they were in, and also what town of note was near them; when finding it to be *Exeter*, they all made the best of their way thither, with intent there to fix themselves, till Mr. *Charles* should return from his fathers.

Mr. *Charles*, though so many years afterwards, recollecting that *Devonshire* was the county, where his *Iris's* so generous benefactor Mr. *H—g—s* lived; could not rest till he had paid him a visit; but his direction was no where to be found; till at length recollecting his occupation, upon inquiry, one circumstance leading to another,

another, he heard of him, and that his seat was but at *Honyton*, about sixteen miles from *Exeter*.

His lady and he therefore, taking miss *W—d—m*, and his eldest foreign son with him, hired a coach, and drove to Mr. *H—g—s*; but surely, upon *Iris* and his recollecting each other, never appeared their more sincerity in the display of compliments, than passed from each to other.

Mr. *H—g—s* had buried his wife about two years, and having before heard that Mr. *Charles*'s match was a privacy from his father; no sooner had he notice that Mr. *Charles* was about to visit his father, and leave his family behind him at *Exeter*, than he insisted upon their being all brought over and left with him: for that he had abundance of old stories to talk over with his fellow travellers, nor would he by any means be denied: so that, leaving them all there, Mr. *Charles* set out for his father's.

Upon his first arrival, he was known to none of the inferiors of the family: not had his father's accident happened above three days before; but upon making

king himself known to the house-keeper; she received him in the best manner possible, and stated to him his father's case, that his scull was fractured, and that the surgeon had but little hopes of him. She told him it had happened, from a young fellow he took from the parish, who had given him the wound with the kitchen poker; but that he was then in goal for it.

Mr. Charles desired that his father might know he was there, and to be admitted to pay his duty to him; upon which, she went to her master, and brought an order for his entrance; but the old gentleman was so low, that he could scarce speak to him.

Mr. Charles expressed the deepest sorrow for his father's condition, and the highest indignation against its author, and begged to have a circumstantial relation of the transaction; when his father ordered the house-keeper to take him to *Donald*, who being by would best satisfy him the particulars.

Donald related the affair as he had before sworn to it, so that he blackened the criminal

criminal all that his fancy could invent : upon which, Mr. *Charles* soon after returning to his father, told him, he never had before heard so detestible a peice both of villainy, and ingratitude, from one that had been redeemed from so indigent a condition.

Ay, said his father, it was one of dame *E-d-c-b's* bastards, that no-body could find a father to ; nay, neither the fellow, or his sister, knew their own names. Oh ! said he, they have undone me !

The sudden shock that these words gave to Mr. *Charles*'s spirit, was so affecting, that his sinews relaxing, and his brain turning round, he fell at the bed-side by his father. The nurse and house-keeper, who were both present, ran to recover him from his fall, but he seemed to their apprehension dead. They would then have removed him from their master ; but could not, he was so flexible, as to shrink from their hold ; so that they were obliged to send for a couple of men, to carry him, and lay him upon a bed in another room ; where though they verily imagined

imagined him to be stone dead, they were about stripping him, to deposit him in a warm bed, to try what that would do; but the surgeon who attended his father, coming just at the instant, upon his evening's call, they took him into him.

He opened a vein, though to little effect; when feeling no pulse, nor the least token of breath left, he also became of opinion, that the young gentleman was past recovery, and leaving him as he lay, stept into his father; but had not been long gone, before the nurse screamed out for help: for Mr. Charles, whilst the woman's back was towards him, fetching a deep sigh, the blood flew out of the still open orifice, with such violence, as to reach half way the room; upon which, the surgeon returning, declared he would then recover. It was not till the next day however, that he was able to stand at all, and then so dejected he seemed to be, that his father presuming it wholly to be occasioned by his illness, pitied him exceedingly.

He wore out another day thus, during which time, his father growing worse,

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the parson was sent for to pray by him, and to administer the sacrament to him. He then ordered his son to assist thereat; but just before the clergyman began, Mr. Charles moving to the bed-side, told his father, that he had somewhat to say to him, before the parson proceeded, in discharge of a burden that had long lain upon his conscience; and infinitely the more so, since the fatal accident had befallen him, and he himself had discovered the author to him.

The old gentleman amazed at this, ordered him to proceed, and the parson to draw near to hear him; when he began with reminding his father, of his former threats of disherison, in case he should not marry some rich bride; adding, that his sole affection being settled upon a young woman of no fortune, he had many years ago married her, had had two children by her before he went to *Italy*, and several more since: for that she had been there, for most part of the time with him.

His father interrupting him, demanded who the woman was that he was married to?

to? He replied, Mrs. E—d—c—b's neice. Sure! said his father, these were no children of yours, that she left behind her unprovided for. Mr. Charles replied, that too surely they were: for that she had wholly brought up the two born in England.

Thou villain! said his father, see whitherto thy disobedience to me has hurried you, even in the end, to be the murderer of your own father. He was going on, having but paused to recover his strength, when the clergyman stopt him. Sir, said he, if the case be true that I have heard, who are you to thank for this, but yourself? the conditions imposed upon your son were intollerable, and his affection for his lady, forced him through them. Children are the consequence of nuptials, and though one of your sons, has damaged you, how is he answerable for that? But give me leave sir, before I proceed, to inquire, and as much may depend thereon, I must infist, before I give you the rites I am called hither for, that you declare the truth to me. Was you about to have
forced

forced the young man's sister, at the time he gave you the unhappy blow? for this is what I hourly hear about my parish, and find a pish to be made of the oath, upon which the young fellow was committed.

The tears then flooding down the old gentleman's cheeks, he acknowledged there was too much truth in it. Then sir, said the clergyman, instead of charging your death to your son, you must rectify your judgment, and take the whole to yourself, who have for so many years obliged your son into exile, and to the stealing of those satisfactions, like a criminal, which nature itself, and both moral and divine laws, legally admit him to; and if through your means, these poor youths are still ignorant of their own father, and their relationship to you; who can you blame but yourself, for the rigour of your own precepts? for it is the height of folly, for a father, because he possesses a superior share of power, to the son, to enjoin him forbearance of that lawful act, which himself, with far more

years

years over his head, cannot abstain being criminal in.

Old C—d—s believing his death to draw near, and repenting him of his behaviour, both to his son, and granddaughter, begged the parson to call the next morning, when he would order the children before him, and choose to speak to to them in his presence.

The parson and the children being now arrived, the old gentlemen sent for these in, who came trembling to his presence, when not using much preface, my dearest children, said he, it seems that you, who were suspected to have had no relations, are at length turned out my own. You are both my grandchildren, by that gentleman (pointing to his son) your father. The young ones both beginning to weep; mind what I say to you, said he; can you *Iris*, said he, forgive me the injury I intended you? Yes, indeed! sir, said she; but pray never do so any more. Heaven forgive the past! said he, my time, will very justly, be too short for more. Can you *Charly*, said he, forgive my assent to the falfe oath, that has occasioned

occasioned your confinement?, yes indeed, sir, said he, I do, and am heartily sorry I should have hurt you so; but what would not my love for my sister have hurried me to?

Its well, said the old gentleman, then kiss me both of you; which *Charly* did, but *Iris*, in dread of some surprise upon her, shrunk back; upon which, fear me not now, my dear said he, you are both too precious to be abused by me; and sir, (said he to the parson) least meddling people should seek the blood of these innocents, when I am no more, bear evidence, that I take the whole mischief upon myself; and not only forgive, but clear them of the least sinister design whatever.

The clergyman taking the children, one in either hand, led them to Mr *Charles*, of whom he ordered them to ask blessing; who taking them in his arms, such a scene was presented, as scarce an age could produce the like of; when the parson asking the young folks whether ever they had received confirmation, their satisfactory answer invited him, (though no

preparation had been made for it) to receive them into the number of his communicants, in confirmation of the good understanding that then subsisted between them all.

Mr *C—d—t* lived but three days after this, leaving all to his son *Charles*, who (not to trouble his wife with a letter, since he must according to promise return to her) just staid to give his father a decent funeral, and to put himself and the two children in mourning, and then took them with him to their mother, relating all past facts to her.

Mr *Charles* was impatient now for returning with his family; but Mr *H--g--ns* taking him aside, asked whether he would not leave Miss *W—d—n* behind him; for that without her he should never be an happy man. He declared he had been smitten with her, from his first view of her in the desert; but having then a wife in *England*, he curbed his desires as much as possible.

Mr *C—d—t* asked him, whether he had ever proposed the thing to her? for that she had had exceeding good offers in

Italy,

Italy, but had refused them all; though he believed she had no other dependance in life, but upon his wife. As for the lady herself he said, a sweeter temper'd creature never existed, and her meer personal qualifications, he must judge of for himself; but added, that as his own obligations were so large to him, for all his favours to his wife in distress, he had purposed with himself, and had assured his wife, that he would by some means, make him all the amends in his power, at his return to *England*. If Mr *H—g—s* admired the lady in truth, he would use his best endeavours to bring them together, and that she might not come empty handed to him, he said, he had brought over with him a trifle from *Italy*, which he would present her at the same time.

In short, Mr *C—d—t* made the match before he left *Devonshire*, and left Miss *W—d—m* behind him, the wife of Mr *H—g—s*, with very near ten thousand pounds for her fortune.

Then calling at *Iris's* desire, upon her protectress Mrs *K—g*; after presenting her with an hundred pounds too, they arrived

arrived upon his own estate, and lived for many years, the happiest family within the knowledge of all their acquaintance.

F I N I S.

